おやすみプンプン ⑨

浅野いにお

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

スピリッツ
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COMICS

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小学館
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Goodnight Punpun © Asano Inio

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

Cast of Characters

Onodera Punpun
A worthless 20 year-old who sleeps with women only to never contact them again. Freeter.

Nanjou Sachi
A tough, 24-year old girl aiming to be a mangaka. Cram-school tutor.

Mimura Setsuyuki
A dashing young lad. University student.

Kanie Miyuki
A chubby girl who's Sachi's friend and former classmate. Wife.

Shishido Heiroku
Owner of Shishido Heights Real estates.

Seki Masumi
A runaway child who misunderstood freedom.

Shimizu
A strange boy who can't wake up from his dreams. University student.

Toshiki
A fairy living in the city.

Paopao Channel
A lolicon internet-addict. 42 years old.

Echo Back
A feminist and strong supporter of organic food. Associate university professor.

White Pig
70kg of pure magic. Shopkeep.

Having-one-left-battery-left-over-is-troublesome
Having one left battery left over is troublesome.

Love Infinite
Physical Education graduate and swimmer.

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The story until now:

Stumbling in and out of one confusing situation after another, all the while maintaining a half-baked relationship status that's more-than-just-friends-but-not-quite-lovers, Punpun finishes the manga he and Sachi worked on. And as the new year unfolds, the couple nervously approach the publishing company with their manuscript.

Ass Hamburger
A cheery girl whose dream is to be an anime voice actress. (・ ω <)

Guardian Angel Gibobogigi
A middle-aged woman who can't gauge the mood. Mother of two.

Contrary
Nice to meet you, baby. Deliveryman.

Pussy Princess (Numata Hiromi)
A sexy girl worried about her future. University student.

Sweet Pretty Lonely Heart Fluffybro (Wada)
A math-man who loves the absolute. Cram tutor and Toshiki's former classmate.

Tanaka Aiko

CAN YOU HEAR IT AS WELL...?

HALF A YEAR FROM NOW...

OUR EARTH SHALL MEET ITS END...

THE CRYING OF THE UNIVERSE...

THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR...

HOW-EVER!

FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAVE A CHOICE!

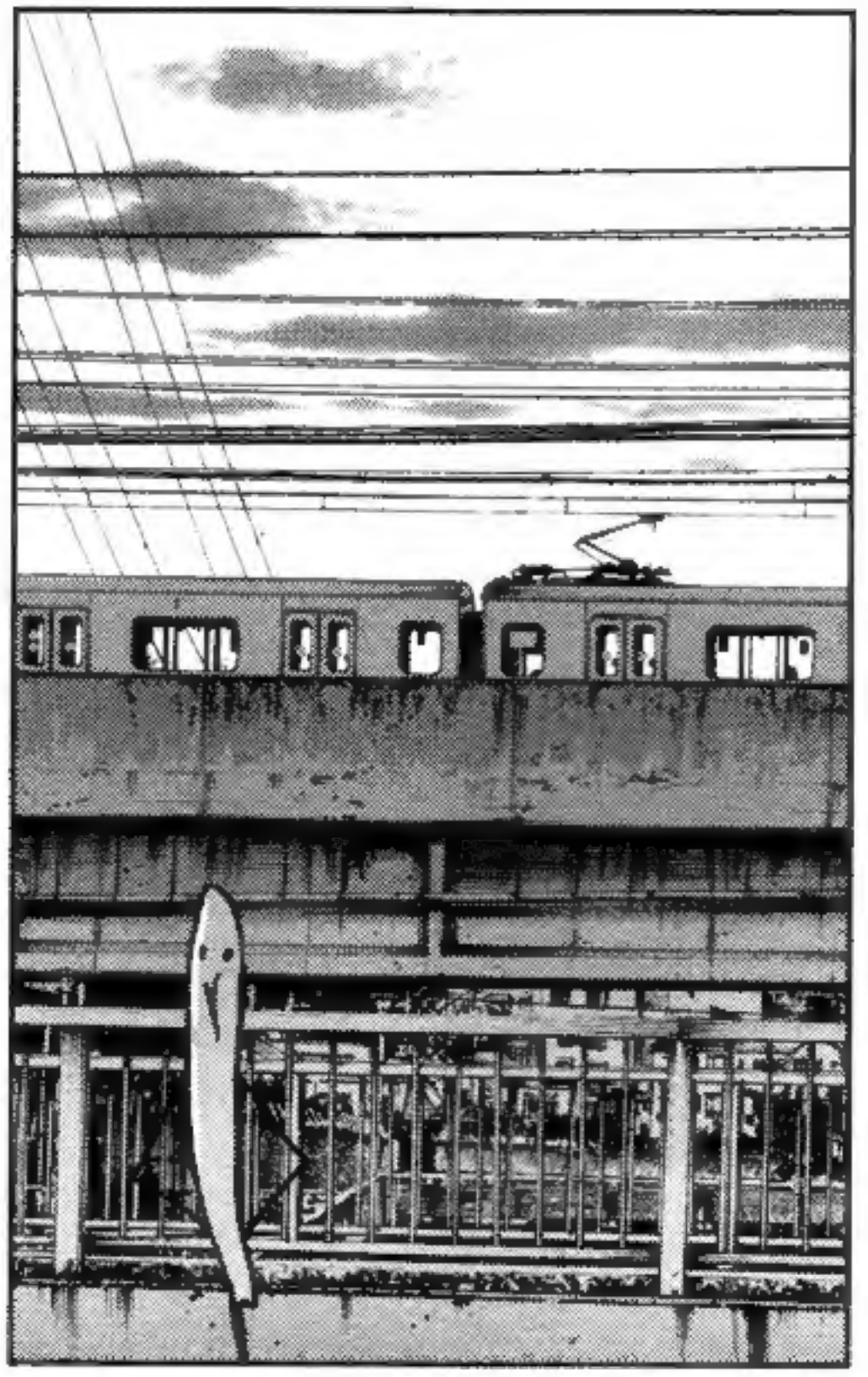
HOWEVER, MY LOVERS!

IN CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF A NEW WORLD?

SO WILL YOU JOIN ME,

GOOD, GOOD, GOOD, GOOD,

GOOOOO OOOOOD VIBRA- TIONS!



TANAKA AIKO...

RIGHT...?

5

GOING TO SOMEONE'S FUNERAL...?

...SORRY, I'M IN A RUSH.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU WERE IN THAT GRAVURE MAGAZINE, WEREN'T YOU?

GOOD LUCK WITH BEING A MODEL.

I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON.

NOT A VERY FRIENDLY ONE, IS SHE...

MY FATHER, HOSHI-KAWA PROSHIKI, PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY.

HELLO?

NO, NO. WE'RE STILL IN SHINJUKU.

THE DISTURBANCE IN THE OSCILLATIONS SHALL CAUSE AN EVEN GREATER DISSONANCE,

AND WILL SURELY CALL FORTH THE ABSOLUTE...

YOU THERE

SHUT UP AND PAY YOUR TAXES, YOU BUM!

I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

C'MON, ONODERA. LET'S HURRY.

THE EDITOR NOW SAYS HE WANTS TO PUSH THE MEETING 30 MINUTES EARLIER!

WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY!?

BECAUSE IT ALREADY CAME TO AN END LONG, LONG AGO!

YOU COULD SAY IT HAS RUN TO COMPLETION ALREADY!

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

IN A WAY, THE WORLD WILL NOT END...

SO THROW ASIDE ALL ELSE AND BARE YOUR HOPES! LET US CREATE A NEW WORLD TOGETHER!

HOWEVER, LOVERS!

YOU MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE HOPE THAT EXISTS WITHIN YOURSELVES!

THE POTENTIAL EXISTS WITHIN YOU!

IF YOU SAY THAT YOU WILL,

THEN I SHALL GLADLY BECOME YOUR CORNERSTONE...

OLYMPOS

BUT TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE THAT NOTION!

MY FATHER, HOSHIKAWA BIROSHIK,

THOUGH EMBARR-ASSING,

ONCE SAID THAT GOD EXISTS NOT AS A SINGULAR ENTITY BUT IN MANY FORMS IN THE HEARTS OF HUMANS...

I MUST ADMIT I AM GOD

HELLO, EVERYONE!

JRオバケ屋敷

LIMONE
HAPPY NEW YEAR BARGAIN
1.1~1.7

お申し込みはコチラから！

歌舞伎町

おやすみプンプン

Oyasumi Punpun

Asano Inio

NO, NO...

WILL IT COME...

OR NOT. ?

BEGUN...!

720m 東京都庁 Tokyo Metropolitan Government

新宿警察署 Shinjuku Police Sta. 500m

IT'S ALREADY...

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEGUN...!

AH, FOUND IT

PRETTY SURE IT WAS IN HERE SOME-WHERE

三人の最終候補メンバーのうち

グランプリはどの子……!?

SEE...

I KNEW I HAD THE RIGHT PERSON.

SHE SURE SUCKS AT FAKING A SMILE.

Tanaka Aiko (19)

LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN TOUGH FOR HER...

Cosmo Health Center
Funeral for Hoshikawa Piroshiki

Cosmo Health Center
Funeral for Hoshikawa Piroshiki

JUST LEAVE THE TALKING TO ME. YOU CAN JUST SIT THERE SILENTLY IF YOU WANT!

LISTEN UP, PUNPUN!

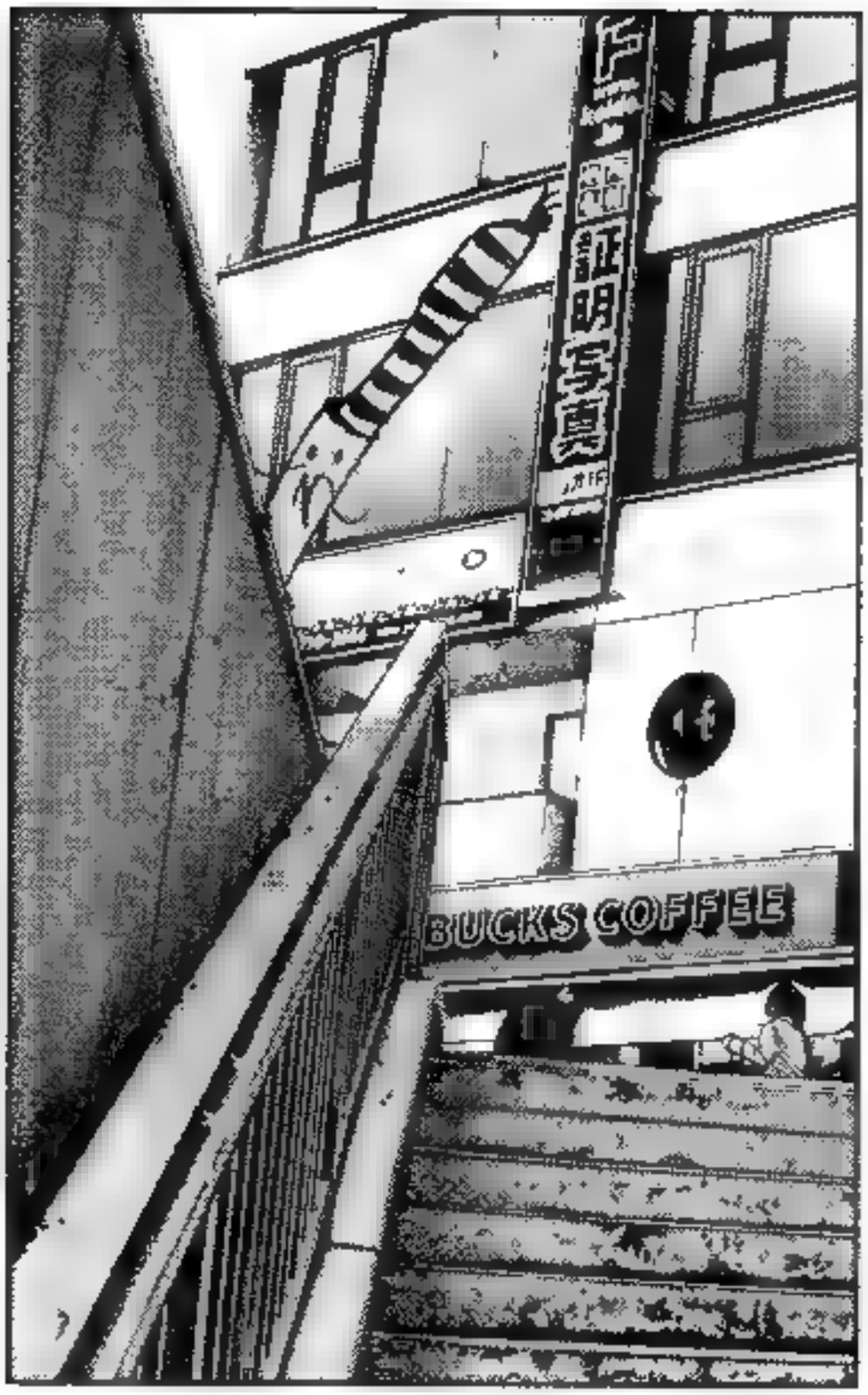
THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT!

WHAT? STOP STARING AT ME LIKE THAT!

I'VE NEVER BEEN NERVOUS OVER A MEASLY APPOINTMENT IN MY LIFE!

...WHEW.

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.


証明写真
BUCKS COFFEE

Chapter 91

AH, THANK YOU.

テレビドラマ原作

OH, HI THERE.

COULD YOU JUST WAIT BY THE BOOTH FOR A MINUTE?

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT MANGA PUBLISHING RECESSION IS OLD HAT,

BUT I WON'T DENY THAT THERE'S BEEN *MORE APPEALING* THINGS THAN MANGA PUBLISHED AS OF LATE.

20m 地下鉄 神保町駅 Jinbocho Subway Sta.

I SEE...

OF COURSE, MANGA WON'T EVER DIE OUT AS LONG AS THERE ARE STILL GOOD WORKS MADE.

AS USUAL, YOUR ART AND LAYOUT ARE WELL DONE.

NICE WORK, MS. NANJOU.

SO YOU TWO WORKED ON THIS TOGETHER?

AH, YES. HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE STORY, SORT OF

I SUPPOSE THIS IS AS USAL AS WELL..

HOW-EVER...

I'M STILL NOT SURE HOW INTER-ESTING THIS ACTUALLY IS.

AH, WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?

待

AH,

HELLO THERE, MR. FUKASAWA.

I HAVE TO SAY I'VE LOVED THE WORK THAT WAS EXCELLENT

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOU'RE A FAN OF FUKASAWA, AREN'T YOU, MS. NANJOU?

AND HIS STORIES CAN BE A LITTLE HEAVY-HANDED, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S FINE SINCE THE CONTENT ITSELF ISN'T TOO DEEP OR ANYTHING

BUT I SUPPOSE THAT'S JUST HOW LESS-MAINSTREAM WORKS ARE.

WELL, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, BUT EVEN HIS WORKS CAN BE A LITTLE...

HIS WORKS SELL WELL ENOUGH AS SEPARATE VOLUMES BUT THEY'RE NOT QUITE POPULAR ENOUGH TO SELL THE WHOLE MAGAZINE.

I feel that I'm lacking a crucial "something." -Fukasawa-

THERE'S STILL A FAIR AMOUNT OF READERS WHO'RE ENGROSSED BY THE ATMOSPHERE OF SUCH STORIES, AREN'T THERE?

BUT,

WELL EVEN IF THERE WERE,

OUR COMPANY CERTAINLY DOESN'T NEED ANYMORE THAN ONE SUCH AUTHOR.

NOW ABOUT YOUR "A MIDDAY'S SHOOTING STAR"...

IN IT, THE JOBLESS-PROTAGONIST LIVING A MONOTONOUS LIFE RUNS ACROSS HIS FORMER HIGHSCHOOL CLASSMATE WHILE IN TOKYO.

HELLO?

I'M CALLING ABOUT THE LINE ON PANEL 3, PAGE 16...

A FEW DAYS LATER, HE HEARS THAT SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AND, AFTER REALIZING THE WORLD KEEPS ON SPINNING AS USUAL, DECIDES TO MOVE ON WITH HIS LIFE...

IN MY OPINION, THE PROTAGONIST IS JUST TOO SELF-CONTAINED FOR THIS STORY TO BE ANY INTERESTING.

I REALLY CAN'T SEE THIS STORY AS ANYTHING MORE THAN BEING ABOUT SOME EMO-KID.

EVEN IF IT DIDN'T, THE SELF-CONFIDENCE GAINED FROM HARD WORK WOULD THEN GUIDE HIS FUTURE.

AND HONESTLY, MOST WORRIES A 20-YEAR OLD COULD POSSIBLY HAVE CAN BE SIMPLY SOLVED IF HE JUST FOUND A JOB AND WORKED HARD AT IT.

THERE ARE MUCH MORE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE OUT THERE IN THIS WORLD,

AND YET, THEY DON'T ALL ACT AS DEPRESSED AS YOUR PROTAGONIST.

HIS SELF-PITY IS JUST ANNOYING,

AND IT MAKES HIM SEEM LIKE SUCH A SPOILED CHILD.

ABOUT THE TRULY MISFORTUNATE PEOPLE OF SOCIETY?

SO IN OTHER WORDS,

YOU'D RATHER HAVE ME WRITE A MOVING STORY,

AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE ARE RELATIVE,

SO I BELIEVE THAT SYMPATHIZING WITH THE MISFORTUNES OF OTHERS IS NOTHING MORE THAN SELF-DECEIT.

I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THE PROPER QUALIFICATIONS TO DRAW SUCH A STORY,

AND IF I WERE TO DRAW IT, I'D FEEL LIKE I'D BE DRAWING JUST ONE BIG LIE.

HMM...

I WANT TO DRAW A STORY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN AVERAGE PERSON!

BECAUSE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN TODAY IS ONE WHERE EVEN THE HOPELESS CAN CONTINUE LIVING THEIR DREARY LIVES WITHOUT FEAR OF GOING HUNGRY!

IT'S MY CONVICTION THAT THE COURAGE TO RISK FAILURE IS THE MOST CRUCIAL THING TO HAVE FOR US WHO LIVE IN SUCH A DOMESTICATED WORLD!

...WELL, I WANT TO SEE IT.

AS LONG AS THERE'S A MEANING TO IT, EVEN A MASTURBATORY WORK CAN BE WORTHWHILE.

BUT THAT'S JUST TOO SELF-CONGRATULATORY.

IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A BIG CIRCLE-JERK.

HOW REALISTIC IS THIS?

HERE, DESPITE WHAT YOU

THE GIRL THAT COMMITS SUICIDE IN YOUR STORY?

THEN IF I WERE TO COMMIT SUICIDE RIGHT HERE AND NOW,

ENOUGH FOR YOU TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE OF MY MANGA?

BECAUSE WE LIVE IN SUCH A TOUGH WORLD, THE READERS WANT SOMETHING CHEERFUL AND SIMPLE TO EASILY LATCH ONTO.

BEING INTERESTING SHOULD BE THE FIRST AND FOREMOST PRIORITY.

FOR A MANGA.

UHH, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE OFF-TOPIC HERE.

WHY DON'T WE GET BACK ON TRACK?

THAT'S JUST IDIOTIC...

SUCH SHALLOW EMOTIONS EVOKED BY THOSE STORIES WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!

WHAT PEOPLE NEED IS A MORE TANGIBLE SENSE OF VALUES WITH WHICH TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE!

EVEN IF THAT CAUSED OTHERS TO THINK OF YOU AS WARPED, AS LONG AS YOU CAN REMAIN TRUE TO YOURSELF UNTIL THE MOMENT YOU DIE,

THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVE IS TRUE DIGNITY IS!

...I'M AFRAID STATING SUCH SELF-ASSURED FACTS THESE DAYS,

WILL ONLY ALIENATE THE READERS

WHY DON'T WE CALM DOWN FOR A MOMENT, MS. NANJOU?

YOU SEEM AWFULLY HIGH-STRUNG AT THE MOMENT.

ME?

THE READERS?

JUST WHO IS IT YOU'RE FIGHTING?

OR PERHAPS SOCIETY?

WHATEVER THE CASE, I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO SET ASIDE YOUR PERSONAL ATTACHMENTS FOR THE TIME BEING

IF YOU START COMING AT ME WITH SUCH INCOMPLETE IDEOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS, I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHERE TO BEGIN.

ALTHOUGH I WON'T SAY THAT EXPRESSING SUCH PERSONAL FEELINGS IN A WORK IS NECESSARILY A BAD THING,

I'LL SUBMIT YOUR WORK TO THE NEWCOMER AWARD POOL FOR THE TIME BEING

IN ANY CASE,

SO PLEASE TRY TO COMMUNICATE A CLEARER MESSAGE NEXT TIME.

I WILL SAY THIS

WHO WOULD TAKE AN INTEREST IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

THERE'S NOT AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU THINK IN THIS WORLD,

CAN I GET THAT CHANGED TO "I'D LIKE TO PUT MY NOSE RIGHT ON HER PUSSY AND TAKE A DEEP WHIFF."

THE LINE "I WANT TO SMELL HER PUSSY."

IT'S PART OF PANEL 3

EXCUSE ME,

I HAVE TO GO TO THE WASHROOM.

AND CHANGE MY TAMPON!

YOU GOING OUT WITH HER?

SO...

WHOO, SHE USED TO BE A LITTLE CALMER...

AH, IS THAT SO...

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CARE EITHER WAY.

WHY DON'T WE GRAB A BITE BEFORE WE HEAD HOME?

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOME MOTSU NABE!?

IT'LL BE MY TREAT!

NABE WOULD BE NICE...

HM...?

WHAT IS IT?

SPIT IT OUT.

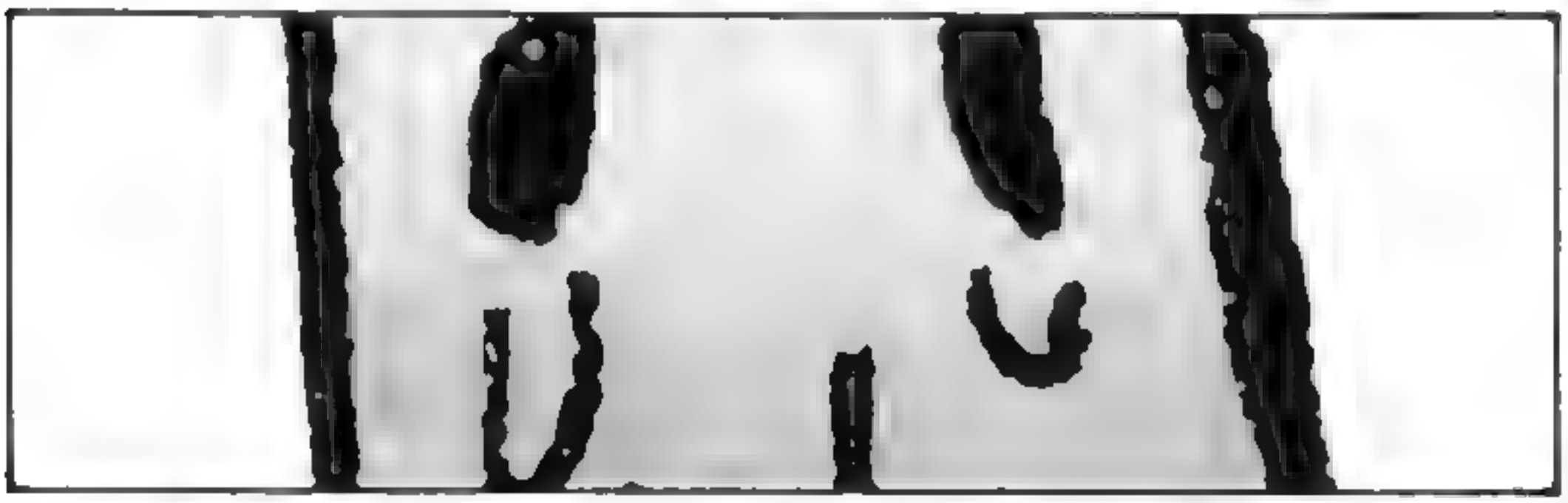
"IT'LL BE ALRIGHT SINCE YOU'RE A GENIUS, SACHI."

ARRGHHH!

ぴぴ

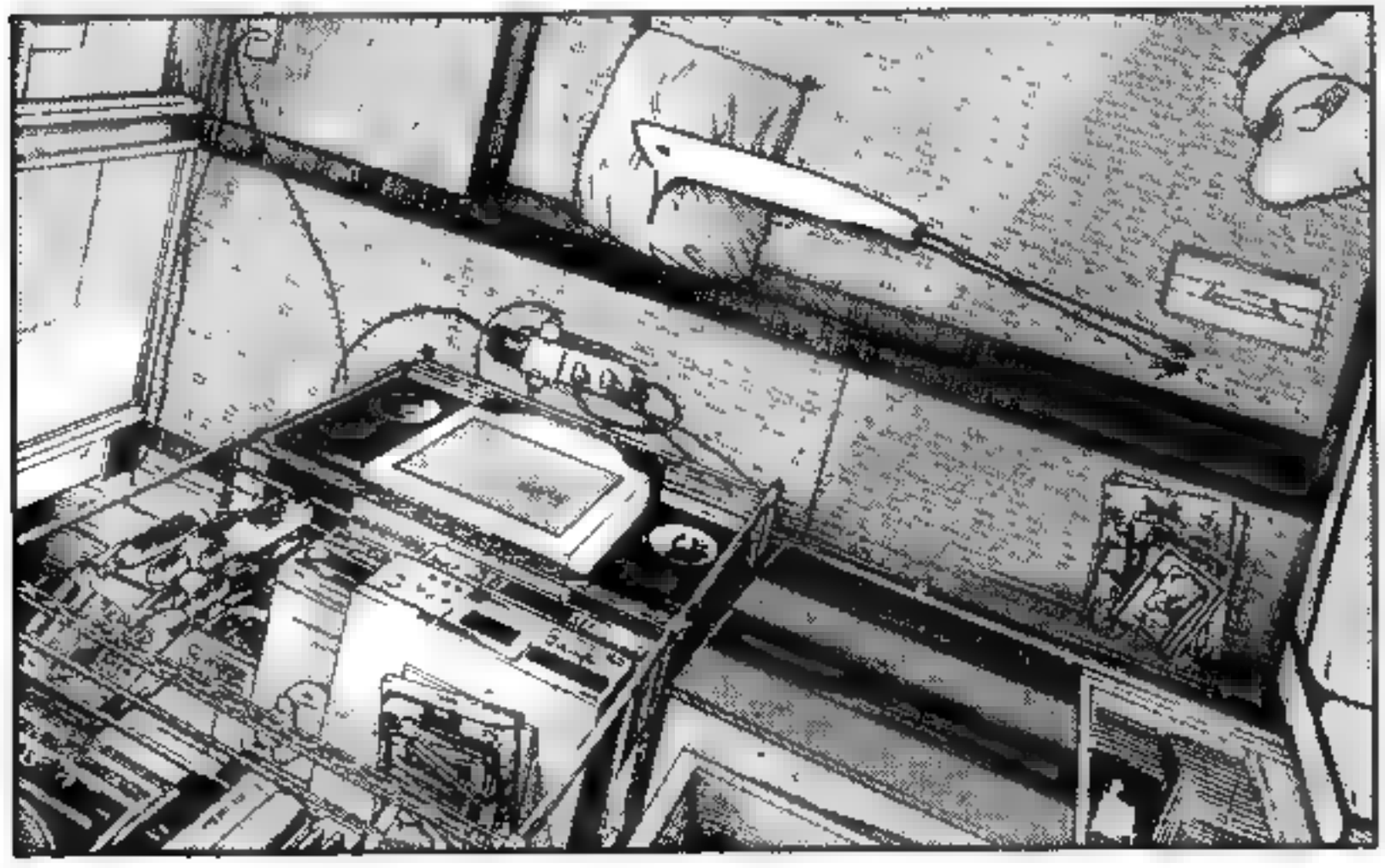
SHUT UP FOR A MINUTE

JUST



I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP TRYING

NO OTHER CHOICE...



INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF TOKYO, HOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI. AGE 38.

SINCE LEAVING WASEDA UNIVERSITY, HE HAS CONDUCTED INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON SUPER-STRING THEORY WHILE WORKING AS A GUARD ALL OVER JAPAN.

Candidate for Governor of Tokyo
HOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI

WE NOW TURN TO HIS STANCE ON POLITICAL VIEWS.

HE IS THE CURRENT HEAD OF PEGASUS MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

星川とし志

星川とし志

I AM PEGASUS.

HELLO, EVERYONE!

星川とし志

ON JULY THE 7TH OF THIS YEAR, THE EARTH WILL GO "KABLAM!" AND MEET ITS END.

ONE APPLICATION OF MY RESEARCH ON SUPERSTRING THEORY HAS ALLOWED ME TO TOUCH THE FUTURE.

星川とし志

AND WHY IS THAT, YOU ASK?

TO ILLUSTRATE WITH AN EXAMPLE FOR THE SAKE OF CONVENIENCE, IT IS THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF A FALLING DARUMA DOLL WITH A POPPING-EYEBALL.

AND AS SUCH, IT IS INEVITABLE.

星川とし彦

AND OUR PREPARA-TIONS ARE PROGRESSING ALONG AS I SPEAK...

I SHALL SAVE THIS WORLD.

I HAVE GATHERED MANY COMRADES TO HELP ME ON THIS QUEST TO AVOID THE COMING DESPAIR.

星川とし彦

VIBRA-TIONS!

GOOD...

星川とし彦

I WAS UNSURE OVER WHETHER OR NOT THIS WORLD HAD ENOUGH VALUE TO BE WORTH SAVING IN THE FIRST PLACE...

HOWEVER, I HAD BEEN IN A QUANDARY FOR QUITE SOME TIME...

星川とし

SOMETHING WAS STILL LACKING, AND LIKE A FAINT PIECE OF STRING WRAPPING AROUND OUR NECKS, IT HAS BEEN SUFFOCATING US

A STATE AS DARK AS THE END OF THE WORLD.

I'M SURE MANY OF YOU LOVERS HAVE ALSO FELT THE STAGNATION OF OUR WORLD DURING THESE PAST 10 YEARS...

DESPITE THE SURPLUS OF MATERIAL WEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY INCREASINGLY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER,

星川とし

BUT MERELY REBALANCING ITSELF TO ITS IDEAL STATE.

THE WORLD IS NOT COMING TO AN END,

京都大学 ほしかわ 星川とし

WHETHER IN SCIENCE OR RELIGION, OUR SOCIETY HAS COME TO A PEAK AT THIS CURRENT TIME.

...IN OTHER WORDS, THE WORLD HAS BECOME RIPE.

WHY THE SAD FACE?

TUMMY HURT?

YOU ARE STILL MUCH TOO SELFISH FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

THAT'S BECAUSE,

I WILL ACCEPT YOU IN ALL YOUR SELFISH-NESS!

EVEN SO...!

星川とし子

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN BEAR.

星川とし子

星川とし子

BUT DESPITE MY EFFORTS, I WAS ONLY ABLE TO REACH ONE CONCLUSION.

星川とし彦

THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO THROW ASIDE EVERY-THING AND START ANEW.

星川とし彦

IF I WERE TO BECOME THE GOVERNOR OF TOKYO...

I SHALL FREE ALL OF TOKYO!

FREE FROM RULES AND REGULATIONS.

SO THAT WE MAY CREATE A BRAND NEW WORLD TOGETHER!

I PERSONALLY WITNESSED YOUR KINDNESS, GOOD-WILL, UPSTANDING MORALS,

FROM THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE TRAGEDY,

YOU ARE ALL GREAT, VIRTUOUS PEOPLE!

I WAS EVER SO MOVED!

NAY, I'M CONVINCED THAT NO ONE *OTHER THAN YOU* CAN DO IT!

YOU PEOPLE CAN SURELY DO IT!

WE ALL WANT TO SEE A WORLD OF TRUE HAPPINESS AND EQUALITY, BUT WE ?

I'M SURE WE CAN OVERCOME RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND COME TO AN UNDER-STANDING...

IF SO, THEN THROW AWAY YOUR CLOTHES!

AND CHANGE INTO PEGASUS T-SHIRTS!!!

FAMILIES, POLITICS AND CULTURES CAST ASIDE ALL NOTIONS OF MAKING DISTINCTIONS OF HUMANITY

CAST ASIDE YOUR HOMES, WEALTH, JOBS, AND COME GATHER AT TOCHOMAE AS A PURE INDIVIDUAL!

THERE, WE SHALL SING THE SONG OF PRAISE UNDER MY LEAD!

YOU ARE ALL ALLOWED TO LIVE!

ADULTS, CHILDREN, AND THE ELDERLY!

YOU ARE ALL ALLOWED TO LIVE!

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE AN ORDINARY, DELINQUENT, LOLICON, OR EVEN A MURDERER!

星川とし彦

AND TALK ABOUT OUR FUTURE...

LET US ALL JOIN OUR HANDS,

星川とし彦

AND IF SOMEONE WERE TO REFUSE JOINING [illegible]

LET'S [illegible] OUR [illegible] AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH.

星川とし彦

CAST ASID YOUR INDI-VIDUALITY,

SO THAT WE MAY BECOME ONE AND PROGRESS TO THE NEXT STAGE!

AND TAKE TURNS HAVING PASSIONATE SEX!

星川とし

YOU YOUR-SELVES CAN TURN THIS INTO REALITY WITH YOUR DECISIONS.

THIS IS NO

NOR IS THIS MY SELF-INTOXICATION TALKING...

WELL...? DOES IT EXCITE YOU?

星川とし

星川とし

IT'S SWELLING WITH EXCITE-MENT!

MY-

MY-

星川としき

星川としき

星川としき

I SHALL GLADLY FIGHT OFF THE "PROMISED DESPAIR"...

星川としき

YOU ARE SPLENDID!

星川とし吉

FROM THE [illegible] SKY-CITY OF TOKYO, LET US WITNESS THE BIRTH OF A NEW AGE...

WE SHALL CREATE A NEW WORLD...

星川とし吉

星川とし吉

星川とし彦

星川とし彦

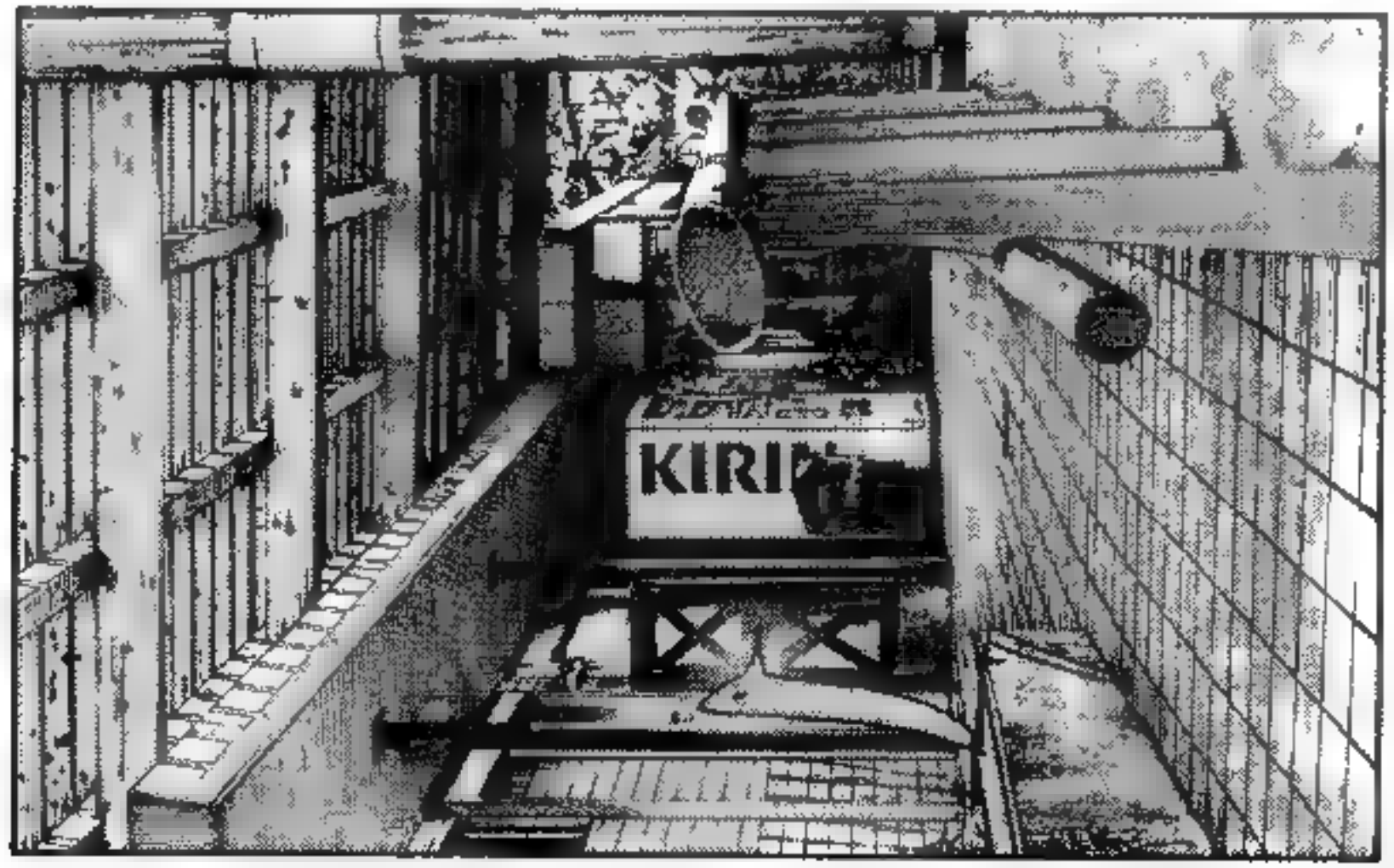
星川とし彦

Independent Candidate

for Governor of Tokyo

AND THAT CONCLUDES THE BRIEF-ING FOR YOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI'S STATEMENT.

YOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI


KIRI

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE SUFFERING OUT THERE!

WE KINDLY ASK FOR ANY DONATIONS YOU CAN SPARE!

BE GENEROUS AND GIVE!

WE KINDLY ASK FOR ANY DONATIONS YOU CAN SPARE!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH SIR!

DEIDO

スナック
じょん
ランチはじめました♥
'SUP!
HOW YOU GALS DOING?
2
WHAT'S WITH THE SERIOUS LOOKS?
HUH?

PEEENIS!
2

WHY DON'T WE [illegible] HERE AND GO TO [illegible] AND A [illegible] A. [illegible] PLACE!?

MMMRA!

[illegible]

FATASS OVER HERE GOING ON AND ON ABOUT [illegible] EAT WITH ALL [illegible] SUFFERING OUT THERE...

SORRY, MY [illegible] TERM BEGINS [illegible]

WASN'T IT JUST [illegible] WHEN YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT WANTING TO BE [illegible] AS A SIAMESE CAT IN YOUR NEXT LIFE [illegible]

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD!

[illegible] HELL DID YOU GET ALL [illegible] MY ASS!?

WELL IF YOU WANNA BE REBORN SO [illegible] JUST KILL YOURSELF ALREADY! I WON'T STOP YOU!

ANYONE WHO TRIES TO FORCE THAT SICKENINGLY EASY-GOING GENEROUS SPIRIT OUT OF OTHERS IS NOTHING BUT AN ANNOYING PRICK.

AND I'M GONNA CONTINUE TO WORK ONLY FOR MYSELF AS I'VE ALWAYS DONE

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING MY STANCE ON THIS ISSUE.

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE SUCH A SELFISH BRUTE.

WELL I AM *SHOCKED!*

DON'T YOU HAVE AN *OUNCE OF* COMPASSION IN YOUR HEART!?

OR DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT GUILT-TRIPPING PEOPLE JUST BY STANDING OUT ON THE SIDEWALK WITH A DONATION BOX IS GOOD THING!?

OH PLEASE. AS IF *YOU'RE* ACTING PURELY FROM THE GOODNESS OF YOUR HEART!

YOU BETTER THINK REAL HARD ABOUT WHICH ONE OF US IS THE SANE ONE HERE!

YOU JUST WANT TO FEEL LESS GUILTY ABOUT LOUNGING ON YOUR FAT ASS EVERYDAY AS YOU LIVE YOUR COMFORTABLE LIFE!

YOU'RE JUST ACTING TOUGH AS ALWAYS!

OH, COME ON NOW, GIRLS.

SO WHAT!?

I MAY NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO, BUT MY ABS SAY THAT BOTH OF YOU SHOULD JUST CALM DOWN FOR A MOMENT...

PSH, RISKS ARE JUST AN UNAVOIDABLE PART OF LIFE

EVEN IF YOU REALIZE THE DANGER, NOTHING'S GONNA COME FROM ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY

YOU'RE JUST TOO BOLD FOR YOUR OWN GOOD UNAWARE OF HOW CRUEL THIS WORLD CAN BE

EVEN TOKYO'S A DANGEROUS CITY, YOU KNOW. YOU'RE BEING NAIVE IF YOU THINK PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER HELP EACH OTHER OUT

THAT WAY, EVEN WHEN YOU DIE, YOU CAN BE CONTENT THAT YOU GAVE IT YOUR ALL.

IF A LITTLE RADIOACTIVITY'S ENOUGH TO SCARE SOMEONE AWAY, THEN GOOD RIDDANCE TO HIM!

BUT I DOUBT A PERSON ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING SUCH A PEACEFUL AND CAREFREE LIFE COULD EVER UNDERSTAND...

BUT EVEN YOU'VE MADE NO PROGRESS ON YOUR MANGA AFTER BEING REJECTED BY THE EDITOR!

HMPH!

YOU TALK BIG ABOUT WORKING HARD,

YOU AND ONODERA ARE AT YOUR WITS' ENDS, AREN'T YOU?

IT'S NOT SURPRISING CONSIDERING THE STORY.

THE TIMES ARE CHANGING,

THIS MUCH

AND NO

CHANGES,

DOWN ON FOOD AGAIN, ALL THE WHILE OBLIVIOUS TO OTHERS' SUFFERING!

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.

SHUT UP, YOU FRIED BITCH!

THAT'S ENOUGH JAMES

OH, SO YOU WANNA START SOMETHING? COME AT ME, I'LL MAKE YOU SQUEAL LIKE THE LIL' PIGGIE

SINCE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WILL BE IN FULL BLOOM

GOOD, GOOD, JUST LIKE THAT.

A BEAUTIFULLY WELL-

AND ARTISTIC!

VERY PLUMP AND JUICY TOP-GRADE.

WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN OPINIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES.

AND NEITHER IS RIGHT NOR WRONG

AS THEY SAY, VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

SO WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT?

ALONE AND CRYING TO HIMSELF AS

REALLY TALKED MUCH AS OF

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR AWHILE NOW...

WHY AREN'T THE TWO OF YOU PROPERLY DATING?

KNOWS...

THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT

EWW, THIS PLACE IS NASTY!

YOU WANT ME TO HELP CLEAN THE PLACE UP?

I'M COMING IN, LIKE IT OR NOT...

PUSH

YOU TOO ?

MADE ANY PROGRESS ON THE MANGA?

OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO RUSH.

IF YOU WANT TO CRY, THEN IT'S PERFECTLY FINE TO CRY UNTIL YOUR EYES DRY OUT.

I PRETTY MUCH KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING,

SO LET ME SAY THIS FIRST.

YOU THINK AFTERWARDS,

I'LL BE BY

"I'VE BEEN THINKING NON-STOP FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS. JUST WHY IS IT THAT I'M SO USELESS...?"

I'M SURE A DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU'LL FIND YOUR WORTH.

IT'S FINE EVEN IF YOU *ARE* USELESS RIGHT NOW,

AS LONG AS YOU KEEP LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE.

"NOT ONLY THAT, I CAN'T HELP BUT GET THE FEELING THAT I'M JUST DRAGGING YOU DOWN, SACHI..."

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY,

AS LONG AS YOU DO WHAT I TELL YOU.

WORRYING ABOUT ME NOW?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT...

"I GUESS IN THE END, I'M JUST YOUR PET..."

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ON YOUR OWN.

AND I'LL GO ON MY OWN WAY TOO.

THOSE TEARS WON'T WORK ON ME YOU KNOW

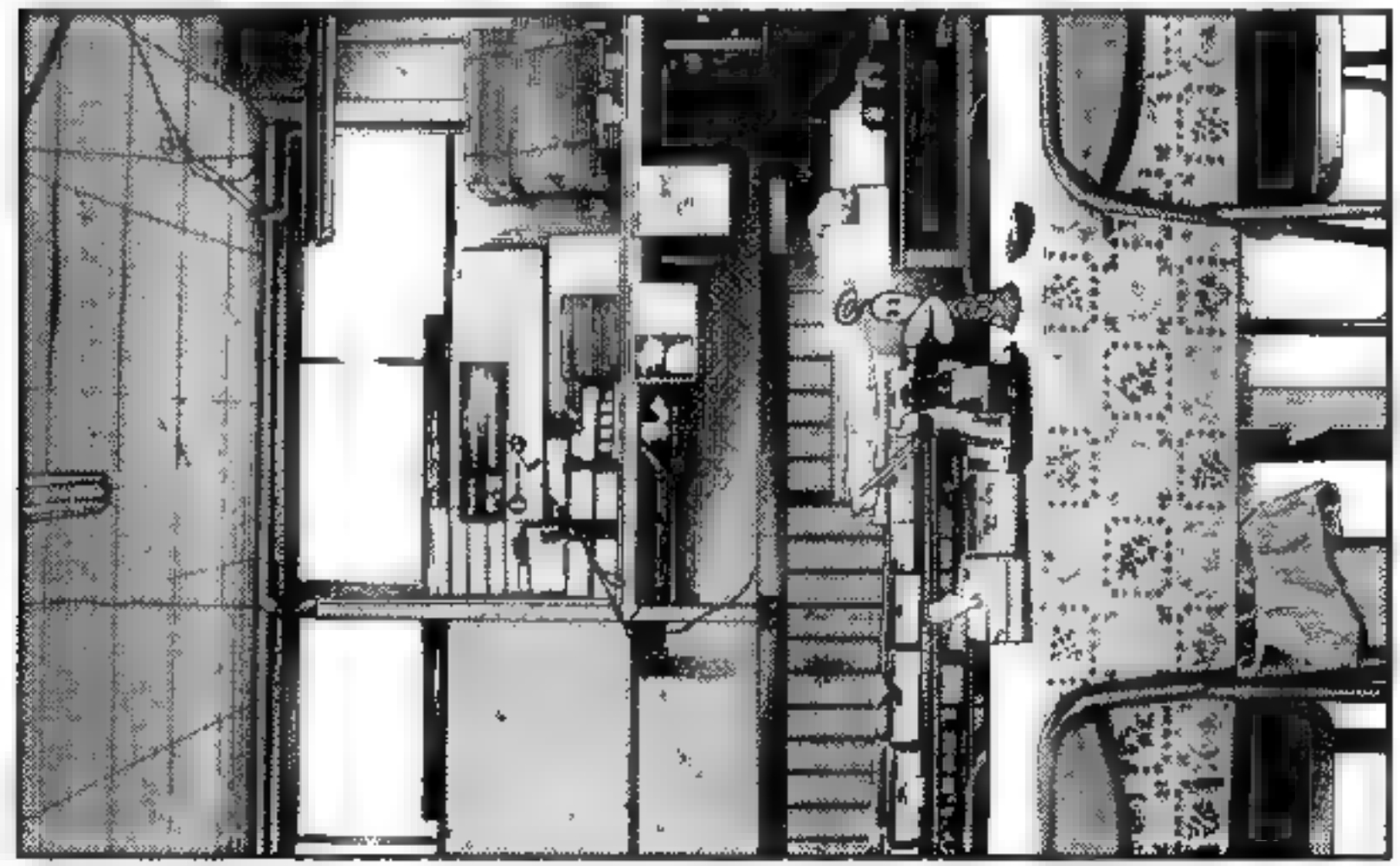
IF I FELT LIKE IT, I COULD EASILY DRAW AN AWARD-WINNING PRETENTIOUS MANGA BY MYSELF

TO BOTH HIM AND EVERYONE ELSE

I GUESS TALKING'S A WASTE OF TIME

GIGA

GIGA



TEACHER!

AGHHH HHHHH HHHH!

HEY SHIMIZU

SEKI!

KOU, MY DEARIE-OH!

IS SEKI'S MOTHER-

NO, I'M AFRAID SHE'S NOT HERE AGAIN DUE TO WORK...

IT'S ALRIGHT, I'LL TAKE SEKI HOME AS USUAL.

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT FORCING HIM ONTO YOU EVERYDAY, MRS. SHIMIZU...

BYE-BYE!

GOODBYE, CHILDREN. SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW.

WHY DON'T YOU TWO KIDS SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR TEACHER NOW?

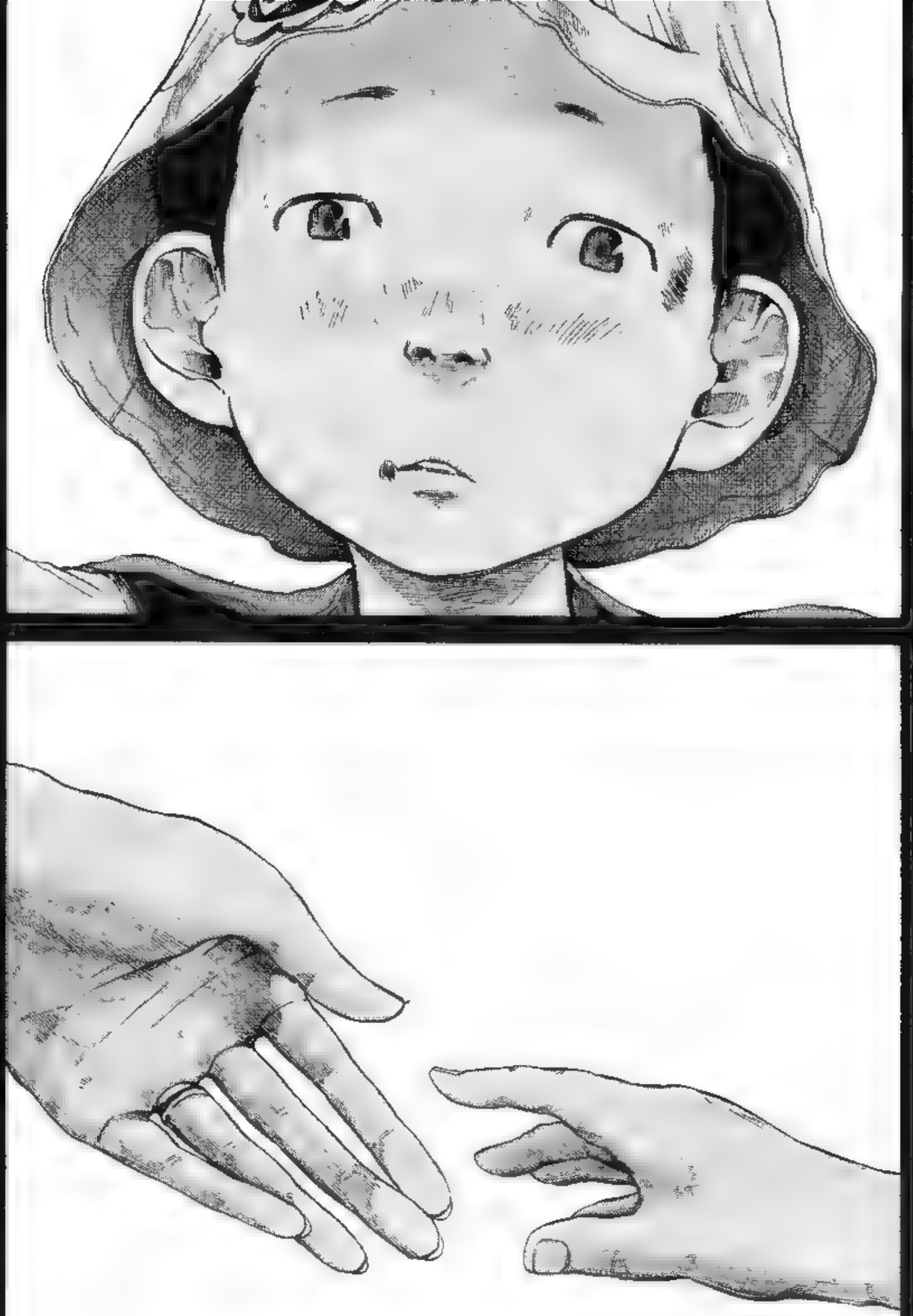
LISTEN UP, KOU.

SEKI'S MOMMY IS VERY BUSY WITH WORK SO YOU BE FRIENDLY WITH HIM, YOU HEAR?

LET'S ALL JOIN HANDS TOGETHER, KAY?

COME ALONG, SEKI. NO NEED TO BE SHY.

AH-



HEY.
I SAID HEY!

HELLOOO!? ARE YOU LISTENING!?

PAY ATTENTION, WILL YA? HE'S ABOUT TO TELL US THE PUNCHLINE.

HUH?

I DUNNO, TELL US

SO AS I WAS SAYING... THIS CHICK STICKS AN INK BRUSH UP HER PUSSY,

AND GUESS WHAT SHE WRITES WITH IT!

DAMN. JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU THAT EVEN RUNDOWN STRIP JOINTS SHOULDN'T BE UNDERESTIMATED

"HARD WORK!"

AN *ALTERNATE* SOURCE OF *STRENGTH* FOR *WOMEN!*" HA! I WAS FLOORED WHEN SHE SAID THAT!

YOU'RE A YOUNG KID SO I'D GUESS HAVE AT LEAST ONE OR TWO FUNNY STORIES TO TELL, RIGHT?

WHY IS THAT WE HUMANS STILL RELY ON CARS?

AFTER ALL, AREN'T THEY JUST DANGEROUS CONTRAPTIONS THAT CLAIM THOUSANDS OF LIVES EVERY YEAR?

UHH... WELL, WE NEED THEM FOR CONVENIENCE AND TO SUPPORT OUR CURRENT SOCIETY.

SAID SOMETHING *INTERESTING* MAN, GO FUCK YOURSELF

THEN HOW ABOUT I ASK YOU A QUESTION

HOWEVER, YOU CAN ONLY REACT FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE ONE PERSON. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN SUCH A SITUATION?
WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU SPOT A TRUCK WITH A DRIVER SNOOZING AT THE WHEELS HEADED RIGHT FOR THE THREE OF YOU.
YOU'RE WALKING WITH YOUR FRIEND AND HIS MOTHER,

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
I GUESS IT'D BE THE FRIEND, RIGHT?
WELL...

DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD CHOICE EITHER. YOU'D HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE GUILT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
OH, I GOT IT! YOU RUN AND CHOOSE TO SAVE YOURSELF!

MAN, SERIOUSLY GO FUCK YOURSELF WITH THAT QUESTION.
AGH! YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WITH THESE TYPES OF QUESTIONS UNLESS IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS TO YOU!
WELL, THERE'S NO REAL *RIGHT* ANSWER.

IS LIFE ANY FUN FOR YOU?

WHAT KIND OF CHILDHOOD DID *YOU* HAVE?

BUT I HAVE TO SAY...

YOU'RE A PRETTY CYNICAL KID FOR YOUR AGE.

OH, A NORMAL ONE.

A NORMAL ONE WITH NORMAL FAILURES AND NORMAL MISTAKES.

YOUR PARENTS?

VAIN, PREJUDICED, AND IGNORANT. THEY'RE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE ARCHETYPICAL DREGS OF SOCIETY.

IN THEIR FREE TIME, THEY LIKE TO WATCH TV WHILE GRUMBLING ENDLESSLY OR WASTE MONEY PLAYING PACHINKO.

MY DAD FAILED AT HIS BUSINESS ONCE AND NOW MY PARENTS MAKE ENDS MEET WITH WHAT LITTLE MONEY THEY HAVE.

I GOT IT!

JUST LET THE TRUCK HIT ALL 3 OF YOU. THAT WAY, NONE OF YOU WOULD FEEL GUILTY OR SAD!

WHOA, WHOA. THAT'S ENOUGH.

NEXT TIME THERE'S A BIG EARTHQUAKE, I'LL USE IT AS MY CHANCE TO KILL THEM.

WHO KNOWS MAYBE HE WON'T, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

...UMM...

ALRIGHT, I GUESS I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT, THEN.

SERIOUSLY GO FUCK

NO CHOICE BUT TO

WHATEVER CHOICE ONE

BUT GOING BACK TO THE QUESTION, AS LONG AS EACH OPTION SAVES

I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND TO DO THAT FOR ME AT THE MOMENT.

I'M COMING!

AHN!

YES!

WHAT'S THE POINT IF YOU DON'T EVEN EVER SPEND THE MONEY YOU MAKE?

BUSY BEE...

MY RECY-CLING JOB.

IT'S RELAXING. YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE WHEN YOU'RE DOING MANUAL

YOU KNOW, I'M FREE *ALL DAY* TOMORROW...

BUT I AM THINKING OF QUITTING MY CONSTRUC-TION JOB...

WELL, I'M NOT. AND BESIDES, SHIMIZU'S HELPING ME OUT TOMORROW TOO.

IT'S A LITTLE SCARY WITH ALL THE TRUCKS AND HEAVY MACHINERY DRIVING BY.

SHIMIZU THIS, SHIMIZU THAT...

YOU SAY THIS AFTER I JUST *MADE YOU COME HOW MANY TIMES?*

WHAT'RE YOU, GAY?

ANSWER SERIOUSLY!

BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL THAT DOESN'T SMOKE.

WHY'RE YOU EVEN GOING OUT WITH ME?

HEY...

NGHH!

SEKL

DON'T LOOK!

WHERE'S MOMMY?

WHAT, DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

I BELIEVE YOU.

SHE'S... SHE'S RIGHT OVER THERE.

REALLY?

OK!

SHE'S ALIVE AND WELL FOR SURE!

OK...

YOUR MOM'S ALIVE

AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE IN ME,

YOU DON'T NEED TO FACE REALITY

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT IN YOUR STEAD...

I'LL BE THERE TO PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT

OH MY!

ARE YOU TAKING ANY TISSUES ALONG, DEAR?

I'M OFF!

HAVE A GOODY GOO!

JOHNSON

SOMEONE LIKE

HEY SHARON

WELL...

I MEAN,

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU *HAVE TO* GET ONE RIGHT NOW OR ANYTHING BUT...

BUT LIKE, ABOUT THE HAPPINESS IN MARRYING SOME CHICK AND RAISING A CHILD, YOU KNOW?

IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN THINKING TOO...

EVEN IF IT'S SHALLOW, IT MIGHT BE KINDA RELAXING IN ITS OWN WAY.

NOT ABOUT THE USUAL CRAP I GO ON ABOUT,

I GUESS ...

RIGHT?

ISN'T UNIVERSITY FULL OF HORNY CHICKS?

THEN GOOD. GETTING A GIRLFRIEND'S A PIECE OF CAKE. I'LL EVEN HELP YOU!

MAYBE THEN, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT AND NOT NEED ME ALL THE TIME!

AND YOU'RE TREATED PRETTY NORMALLY IN SCHOOL NOW THAT YOU DON'T SEEM TO GO ON ABOUT THAT GOD OF POOP OR WHATEVER, RIGHT?

BUT...

I DON'T KNOW...

SEEMS LIKE A BIG HASSLE...

AND I DON'T WANNA LEAVE MY MOM ALL ALONE.

HANNE

WHAT .. DID YOU...

JUST SAY...?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?

SHE WAS IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHEN WE WERE IN [illegible]

YOUR MOM'S BEEN DEAD FOR A LONG TIME. DID YOU FORGET!?

YOU LIVE IN A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH YOUR DAD, SISTER, AND GRANDPA!

OR ARE YOU JOKING AROUND BY ONLY PRETENDING TO BE RETARDED?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

ARE YOU RETARDED?

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S DRAGGING ME DOWN

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH ME

YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN THINKING...

AH-

SORRY,

I GOT A CALL FROM MY BOSS

AM I.

A BOTHER?

HELLO? SEKI SPEAKING

...YES, I CAN WORK RIGHT NOW.

COSMOS HEALTH CENTER...?

ALRIGHT, I'LL HEAD OVER THERE RIGHT AWAY.

SHIMIZU,

GOOD VIBRATIONS.

Chapter 95

WE, THE MAGICAL WARRIORS POSSESSING THE STABILITY OF A REGULAR TETRAHEDRON, CAN RETUNE THE DISSONANCE OF THE AKASHIK RECORDS.

SO WHY DO YOU REJECT US, MY LOVERS...

ARE YOU NOT MY CHOSEN ONES...?

SOME-WHERE IN THIS FESTIVAL,

THE ABSOLUTE DARK SPOT IS LURKING AROUND...

EVERYTHING IN THIS BUILDING?

SO, UMM...

WELL, UHH, THIS IS QUITE A LOT OF STUFF... OUR COMPANY USUALLY ONLY HANDLES BASIC HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES.

BUT I'LL CALL MY BOSS AGAIN TO CONFIRM THE SITUATION.

.. YES, EVERY-THING.

NO, I'M AFRAID YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO.

AND YOU'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE MANY TIMES WITH THE LAWYER.

CLEARING OUT THE WHOLE BUILDING IS JUST TOO SUDDEN

CAN'T WE TRY TO TALK THINGS OUT ONE MORE TIME ..?

HE WAS RATHER SLOPPY WITH HIS LEGAL WILL SO I, AS HIS ELDEST SON, ENDED UP INHERITING THESE BUILDINGS AFTER HIS DEATH.

'COURSE, I'LL BE DEMOLISHING THE STUPID SHADY BUSINESS HE'S SET UP AS SOON AS I CAN. .

THIS BUILDING FORMERLY BELONGED TO MY NOW DECEASED FATHER.

THIS ISN'T THE ONLY ONE AS HE SET UP SIMILAR FACILITIES IN NERIMA AND HACHIOUJI AS WELL.

Cosmos Health Center

Hoshikawa Masaki

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M COMPLETELY UNINVOLVED IN MY FATHER'S SHADY BUSINESS.

I STARTED MY OWN BUSINESS BACK IN UNIVERSITY AND NOW I RUN A CELL-PHONE RELATED WEBSITE.

THIS PLACE WAS ORIGINALLY JUST A NORMAL ALTERNATE MEDICINE BUILDING SPECIALIZING IN SEITAI BUT .

WELL, HE PROBABLY GOT SCAMMED INTO MAKING THIS "HEALTH CENTER" YOU SEE TODAY. HE EVEN WENT AROUND CALLING HIMSELF "DOCTOR."

SURE IT IS.

B-B-BUT THIS WATER REALLY IS GOOD FOR YOU!

BEING IN THE SALES BUSINESS MYSELF, I PERSONALLY FEEL NOTHING BUT DISDAIN FOR MY FATHER FOR SELLING THESE FRAUDULENT PRODUCTS.

Cosmos Water

WELL... MAYBE I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO CRITICIZE SINCE I ALSO SELL THINGS WITHOUT ANY INTRINSIC, TANGIBLE VALUE...

AH, EXCUSE ME I'VE GOT A CALL TO TAKE

AH-

TOSHIKI

HELLO?

JUST FIT!!

I'M GETTING GOOD VIBES FROM BEING IN UNISON WITH YOUR SYNCOPATIONS...

I'M SURE OUR MEETING TODAY HAS ALREADY BEEN FORETOLD BY THE AKASHIK RECORDS...

BAM

DON'T YOU THINK SO AS WELL...?

YES, OUR OSCILLATIONS ARE CLOSELY BOUND TOGETHER BY 5 DEGREES OF SEPARATION...

NOSE-PAPER LATER!

YES, YOU. CAN YOU STILL LOVE THIS WORLD?

THEN LET ME ASK YOU SOME-THING

DAD'S NOT AROUND TO SUPPORT YOUR FREE-LOADING LIFESTYLE ANYMORE, UNDERSTAND?

SO YOU BETTER STOP PLAYING TOKYO GOVERNOR CANDIDATE.

THAT'S ENOUGH, TOSHIKI. DON'T SPREAD YOUR NONSENSE TO SOME KID.

EVEN THIS KID IS WORKING HARD OUT IN THE REAL WORLD, UNLIKE YOU.

WHAT, SO YOU WEREN'T PLAYING AROUND?

DON'T TELL ME YOU SERIOUSLY THOUGHT YOU COULD GET ELECTED!? WHAT ARE YOU, RETARDED!?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW BIG OF A LAUGH-INGSTOCK YOU ARE ON THE INTERNET?

IS HE YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER...?

EVEN NOW, I HEAR HE'S GOING AROUND DOING BIZARRE THINGS WITH FOLLOWERS HE PICKED UP.

UNFORTUNATELY, YES. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT CRAZY BRAIN OF HIS.

BUT IT'S THAT CRAZINESS OF HIS THAT STRANGELY ALLOWS HIM TO CON OTHERS INTO BELIEVING HIM, JUST LIKE MY LATE-FATHER.

LUCKILY, I ONLY INHERITED MY FATHER'S ASTUTE SENSE OF BUSINESS AND NOT HIS INSANITY. TOSHIKI AND I MAY BE BROTHERS BUT WE COULDN'T BE MORE UNLIKE.

WELL, BASICALLY WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT AT A MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SAGAMIHARA, A GIGANTIC TRIANGULAR PYRAMID MADE ENTIRELY OF SCHOOL DESKS WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE FIELD GROUND IN [redacted]

CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE...

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE "SAGAMIHARA TRIANGLE INCIDENT?"

THERE WERE OVER 900 DESKS USED, AND THE SHAPE OF THE PYRAMID WAS SUCH THAT IT FORMED A PERFECT REGULAR TETRAHEDRON.

I GUESS THAT'S EXPECTED SINCE IT PROBABLY HAPPENED LONG BEFORE [redacted] WERE EVEN BORN...

BEATS ME...

I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY POINT TO IT. THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF GUY HE IS.

UMM...

WHAT WAS THE POINT OF DOING THAT...?

NEVERTHELESS, MY BROTHER WAS THE ONE WHO ORCHESTRATED THE WHOLE EVENT AND HE ENDED UP BEING ARRESTED FOR IT.

'COURSE, THE ONES RESPONSIBLE WERE ACTUALLY A HANDFUL OF STUDENTS.

プッディン プリン

I REALLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.

WELL, EVEN IF HE *DID* HAVE A REASON, IT'S PROBABLY NOT A REASON THAT A SANE PERSON CAN UNDERSTAND.

AH, BUT HE DID SAY THIS:

"A REGULAR TETRAHEDRON IS THE MOST STABLE OUT OF ALL REGULAR POLYHEDRONS."

"THE DISSONANCE OF THE OSCILLATIONS CAN NOW BE STABILIZED."

"MANY LIVES CAN BE THUS SAVED FROM THE SECRET DISASTER LOOMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

WITH JUST TWO MORE PEOPLE, I CAN FIGHT AGAINST THE WICKED DISSONANCE. .

TWO MORE...

THE COMING-FOE WILL BE THE LIKES OF [redacted] WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN...

BUT OUR FOES CONTINUE TO BECOME STRONGER AND STRONGER BY THE JUMP FORMULA...

IS THIS WORLD NOT WORTH SAVING AFTER ALL...!?

WHY DO YOU TAKE INACTION AND INVITE DESTRUCTION UNOPPOSED...?

SO WHY, MY LOVERS!?

THE DARK SPOT...

I AM TRULY SADDENED.

THE DARK SPOT IS LURKING IN OUR MIDST...

I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE WERE THE CHOSEN CHILDREN...

IS DRIVING MY LOVERS MAD...

I CAN ONLY THINK THAT THIS DARK SPOT LURKING AMONG US,

DO YOU NOT WANT TO SEE IT...?

BUT I STILL WISH TO SAVE THIS WORLD!

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

A BRAND NEW WORLD OVERFLOWING WITH JOY AND LAUGHTER...

THE WORLD CAN BECOME SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL!

I *NEED* YOU...

COME, LET US BECOME ONE...

COMRADES.

WE ARE,

MY BOSS SAYS HE'LL COME TOMORROW TO SEE THE PLACE FOR HIMSELF,

AH, IS THAT SO?

WELL, ALRIGHT THEN.

BUT IT'S UNLIKELY THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE ALL THE ITEMS HERE.

YES, I'LL TELL HIM THAT.

IN ANY CASE, I'M STILL GOING TO GET THIS BUILDING DEMOLISHED SOON ENOUGH.

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE MOST OF THIS PLACE BE FOR NOW

GOD, YOU PEOPLE ARE ANNOYING!

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN MY FATHER A LAVISH FUNERAL, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT!?

NO!

ANYTHING BUT THAT!

JUST WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LIVE FOR NOW!? YOU'RE KILLING OUR LIVELIHOOD!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MURDERER!

OH SHUT UP.

JUST LOOK AT YOURSELVES. YOU'RE STILL AS ENERGETIC AS EVER EVEN AFTER MY FATHER'S DEATH.

HUMANS DON'T DIE THAT EASILY.

WELL, THERE *ARE* THINGS YOU CAN'T BUY WITH MONEY ALONE.

SEI! SEI!

KID, I HATE STUPID IDEALISTIC TALK LIKE THAT.

WHAT, LIKE MEMORIES OR FRIEND-SHIP?

THE HELL ARE YOU DOING NOW, YOU CREEPY HAGS... LOOK, IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH, RAISE THE MONEY TO BUY BACK THE LAND ON YOUR OWN.

I MEAN, THINGS YOU CAN'T BUY WITH MONEY ALONE,

ARE A PAIN IN THE NECK BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SIMPLY SELL THEM OFF WHEN YOU DON'T NEED THEM ANYMORE.

HMM...

GOOD POINT.

SHIMIZU,

LET'S GO HOME.

SHIMIZU?

I CAN GO HOME BY MYSELF, TOO.

WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME YOURSELF?

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT I WAS A BOTHER TO YOU...?

WHAT? BUT I'VE GOT THE CAR SO I CAN DROP YOU OFF

I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY, DUMBASS...

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT M-

NO!

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING ABOUT ME!

OH, IS THAT SO!?

FINE,

DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, DUMBASS!

A QUARREL WITH A FRIEND?

NOT SURE IF IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE MEETING YOU HERE...

AH-

THANKS FOR LAST TIME

THIS RECYCLING JOB IS ACTUALLY MY MAIN JOB.

ALL THE OTHER [illegible] NOTHING BUT TO KILL [illegible]

A BIT LITTLE BUGGER, AREN'CHA...

WORKING ALL THOSE DIFFERENT [illegible]

I THINK I'LL HAVE TO REFUSE...

EVEN IF IT PAID REALLY WELL, GETTING INVOLVED IN SUCH SHADY STUFF IS A [illegible]

SO

DID YOU THINK ABOUT THE OFFER FROM LAST TIME?

A BIT [illegible]

[illegible]

HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU ANOTHER OFFER THEN?

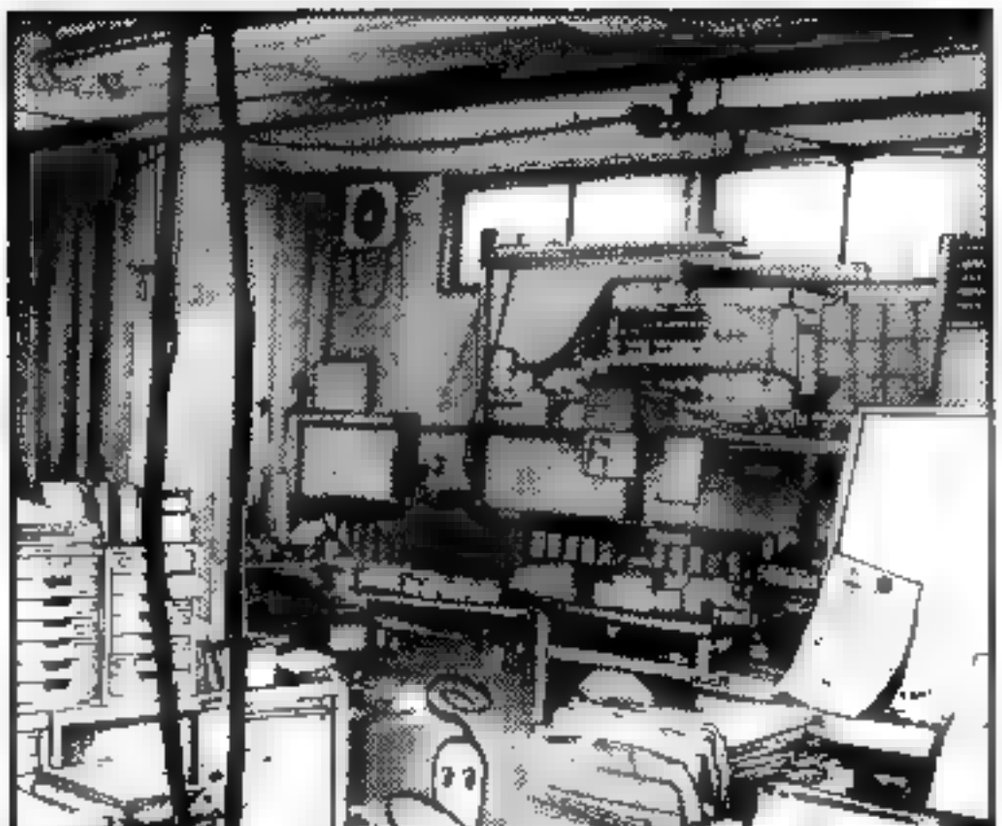
...YES, BUT THERE'S JUST A CERTAIN LINE THAT I CAN'T QUITE CROSS.

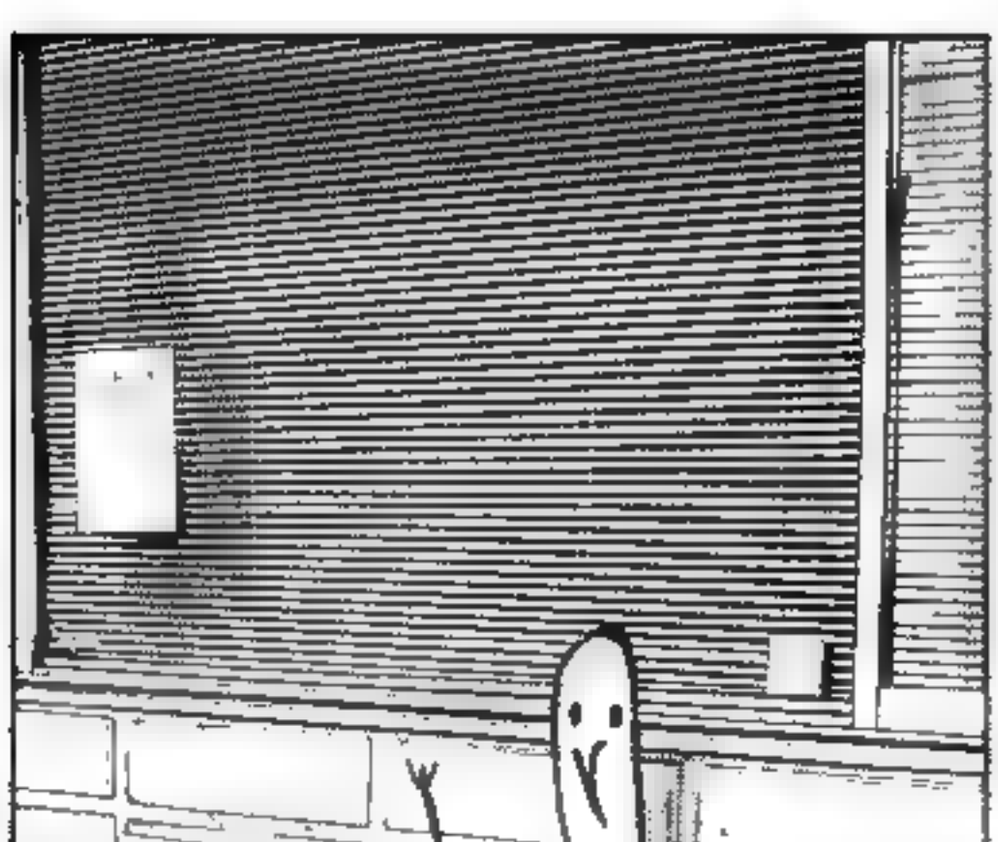
THIS TIME, IT'LL BE JUST A SIMPLE JOB WHERE ALL YOU'LL DO IS PUSH A BUTTON.

MONEY WON'T EVER BETRAY YOU, YOU KNOW?

UNLIKE A PERSON,

I'LL... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT ONE MORE TIME...





HI THERE, I'M HEBITSUKA GESUMI!

FOOLISH EARTHLINGS! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GIRLFRIEND!

GESUMI BE HER NAME!

MIMURA AND I WORK TOGETHER AT OUR UNIVERSITY'S GOODS-STORE!

MIMURA, GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE AND BRING YOUR REAL GIRLFRIEND.

WELL THAT WAS UNEXPECTED.

SEE,

I TOLD YOU GUYS THE PLACE WOULD BE PACKED EVEN IF WE CAME AT NOON.

JUST HURRY AND MAKE UP WITH HER ALREADY, YOU IDIOT.

OH THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE NOT ON THE BEST TERMS WITH NANJOU AT THE MOMENT, RIGHT?

DON'T WANT YOU BRINGING DOWN THE MOOD FOR THE REST OF US, Y'KNOW?

WELP, ME AND GESUALL'LL FIND A PLACE FOR US TO SIT

MAN WE SHOULD'VE GONE SHOPPING FOR THE FOOD AND DRINKS INSTEAD, RIGHT, ONO-D?

IT'S ALREADY SPRING.

BUT MAN.

AFTER THIS SPRING, I'M JUST THAT MUCH CLOSER TO BECOMING A FULLY FLEDGED MEMBER OF SOCIETY...

I'M GONNA BE WEARING A FREAKIN' SUIT! *ME!*

5 YEARS, RIGHT? SO THIS IS GONNA BE OUR 6TH SPRING TOGETHER...

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU AND I KNEW EACH OTHER. ?

YOU'RE JUST GONNA WATCH IT ALL HAPPEN WHILE CONTINUING TO LIVE YOUR CAREFREE LIFE!

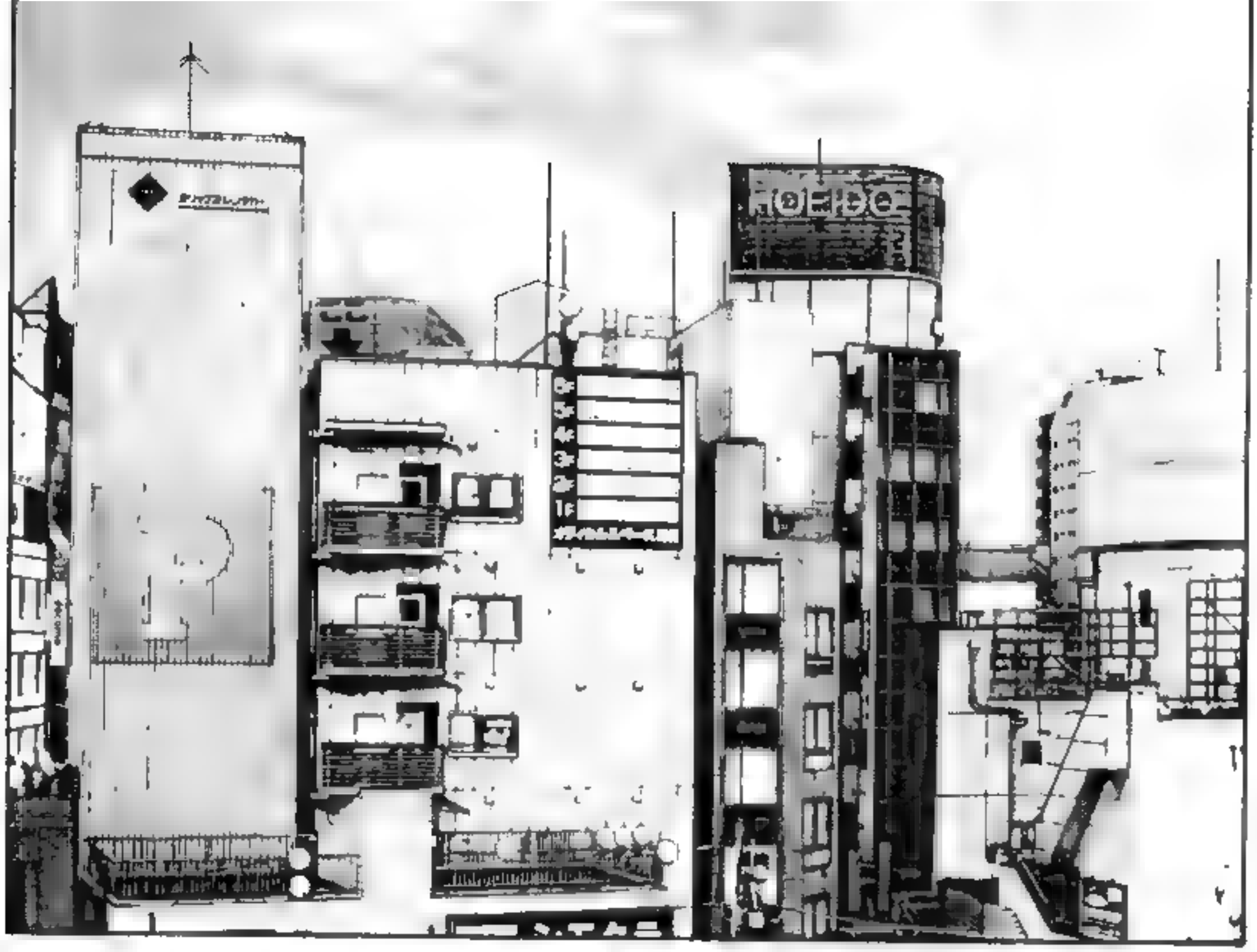
MY PURE, FREE-SPIRIT SOUL IS GOING TO WITHER AWAY AS I BECOME A CORPORATE WARRIOR BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...!

I'LL GO SEARCH FOR SPOTS IN THIS DIRECTION!

ROGER THAT! NOW GO FORTH, TO THE EDGES OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!

WELL, ONCE YOU BECOME A SUCCESSFUL REAL-ESTATE AGENT, I'LL BE ASKING YOU FOR A PLACE TO LIVE!

AGHHH! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE CARRYING THAT WITH YOU!



OH PLEASE, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE TO GAIN BY GETTING BIGGER BREASTS?
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT LOSE MY HUSBAND IF I DON'T SLIM UP!
HMM... AND MAYBE I SHOULD GET BREAST IMPLANTS.
MAYBE I SHOULD GET A LIPO-SUCTION.
WHAT, WHAT, WHAT?
WHAT'RE YOU READING? LET ME SEE, PIG.

YEAH, WE NEED SOME REAL BEER AND SAUSAGES LIKE THEM GERMANS!

WHAAAAT, THAT'S BABY-STUFF!

OH, YOU GIRLS CAN BE SO OBSTINATE. THEN SHALL WE TRY ANOTHER STORE...?

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOME AMAZAKE INSTEAD?

SORRY, THEY'VE SEEM TO RUN OUT OF BEER...

GESUMI'S SUCH A NICE, HARD-WORKING GIRL.

OH, SHE'S RUNNING.

OH CRAP, SHE FELL..

IF SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WELL WITH

AIN'T BAD...

NANJOU'S BEAUTIFUL AND DEPENDABLE,

THE MANAGER'S FRIENDLY AND NICE,

BUT THAT MIGHT ALSO BE NICE IN ITS OWN WAY AS WELL...

MAYBE THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, WE'LL ALL BE GRUMBLING OVER HOW BUSY WE ARE WITH OUR JOBS,

NEXT YEAR, NEXT-NEXT-YEAR, AND SO ON...

IT'D BE NICE IF WE CAN ALL MEET UP LIKE THIS AGAIN,

I SAY THAT BUT WHAT I REALLY WISH FOR,

WELL...

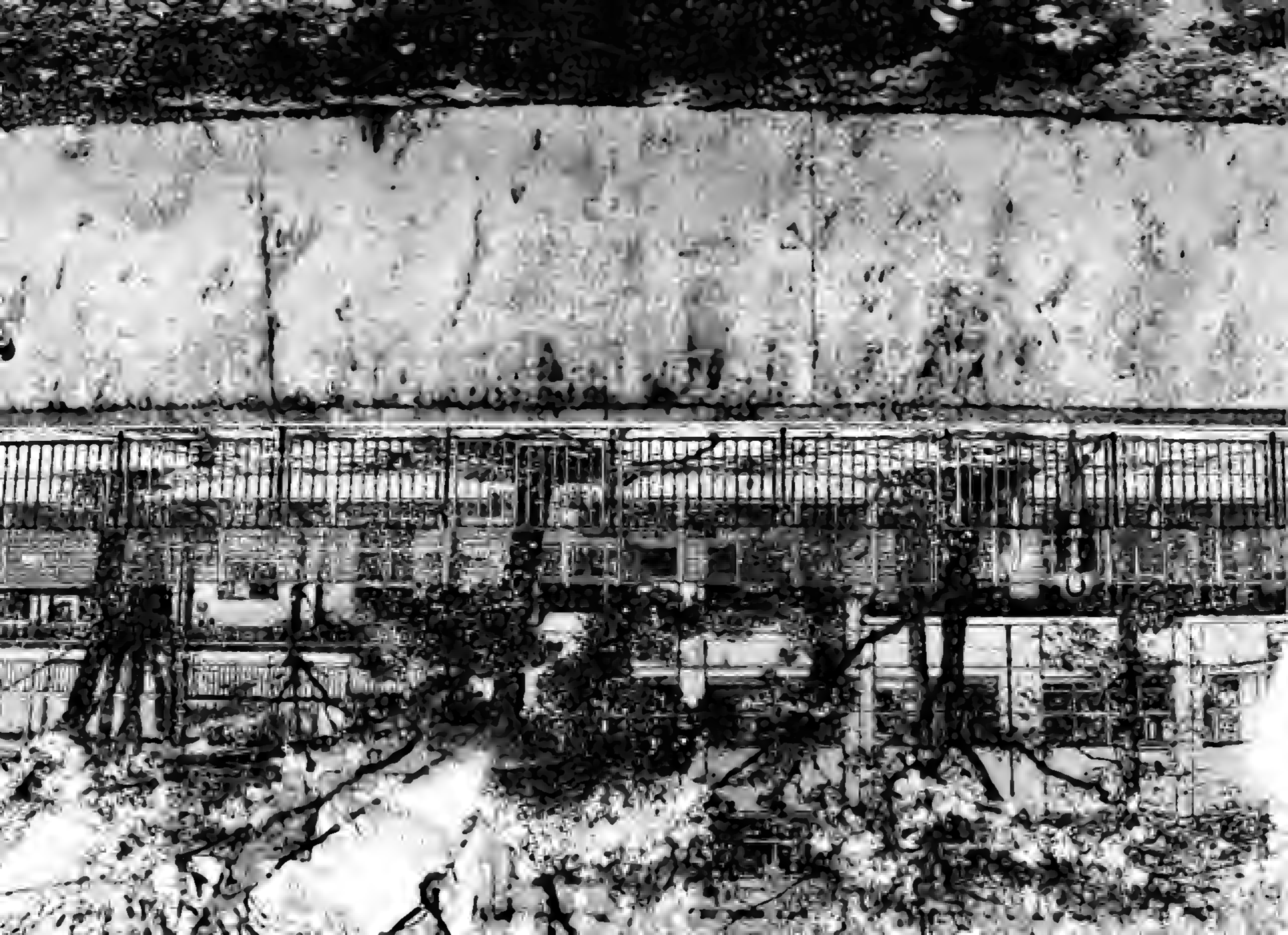
COULD JUST CONTINUE ON FOREVER..

IS IF THESE PEACEFULLY INSIGNIFICANT DAYS,

AIN'T THAT RIGHT,

ONO-D...?

PUNPUN THOUGHT...



MIMURAAA!

I FOUND AN EMPTY SPOT SO COME QUICKLY!

YOU SHALL BE GREATLY REWARDED FOR YOUR

ポイント
普通免許

HE'S COMING ALONG NICELY IN HIS REAL ESTATE STUDIES AND ONCE HE DOES BECOME CERTIFIED, HE'LL EVENTUALLY NEED TO KNOW HOW TO DRIVE.

OH, I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE IF ONODERA COULD GET HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WHY'RE YOU BUYING THAT NOW OF ALL TIMES?

I DON'T KNOW

HE CAN BE A PRETTY HIT-OR-MISS-KIND OF GUY.

THAT'LL BE 880 YEN

AND YOU CAN BE QUITE THE STUBBORN GIRL

WELL WE'RE NOT REALLY *FIGHTING FIGHTING.*

YOU'RE OLDER THAN HIM SO YOU SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PATCHING THINGS UP

I'M SURE THINGS'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL BETWEEN US GIVEN ENOUGH TIME

HOW CUTE.

AH.

HOW ABOUT I BUY YOU ONE OF THIS.

SACHI

AND YOU CAN SHARE ONE DOLL WITH ONODERA...?

SACHI . ?

SACHI.. ?

SACHI?

I SAW YOU.

HAND IT OVER.

I'LL BE TAKING YOU TO THE STORE MANAGER.

COME ON, THEN.

EXCUSE ME?

WHY, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE AT *YOUR* AGE?

I'VE SEEN THESE THINGS HAPPEN PLENTY OF TIMES ON TV BUT SEEING IT FIRST-HAND IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME OUTRAGED.

UHHH...

I AM *DISGUSTED* THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU ACTUALLY EXIST IN THIS WORLD!

SOME-ONE HELP!

THIS MAN'S A SHOP-LIFTER!

I KNEW YOU LOOKED SUSPICIOUS THE MOMENT I LAID SIGHTS ON YOU!

OH PLEASE! I'M SURE YOUR POCKETS ARE FULL OF OTHER STOLEN GOODS!

WHAT?

NO, NO. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO PURCHASE THIS..

I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU!

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!

THERE'S NOTHING IN MY POCKETS EXCEPT MY WALLET...

AH-

HOLD ON JUST A MOME-

SOMEONE RESTRAIN THIS MAN!

/10

I...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!

I'VE BEEN ASSAULTED!

AH, KANIE.

DID YOU SEE THE MANAGER?

THEY'RE LATE...

GO GET ROPES OR SOMETHING TO TIE HIS HANDS WITH!

PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK!

A SHOP-LIFTER?

BUT HE'S JUST AN OLD MAN.

SOMEONE CALL A SECURITY GUARD!

世台商店街
町田名物

OH, WELL I USED TO PLAY RUGBY BACK IN MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

COOL TACKLE, DUDE!

DAMN!

OVER HERE, SIRS! THIS IS THE GUY.

THE DARK SPOT.

LET ME THROUGH!

MOVE IT, LARDO!

WHY'S THE MANAGER LYING ON THE GROUND!?

WHAT'S GOING O-

WELL!?

WHAT HAPPENED!?

IT'S ALREADY BEEN 3 WEEKS AND THE CRIMINAL STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND!?

RESULTED FROM WHEN THE SHOP EMPLOYEE TACKLED HIM OR WHEN THE SECURITY GUARDS RESTRAINED HIM...

AND IT'S NOT CLEAR IF THE MANAGER'S INJURIES,

Shishido Real Estates will be closed temporarily due to personal circumstances. We apologize for the inconvenience.

IT'S NOT AS IF THAT WOMAN DIRECTLY HURT HIM OR ANYTHING...

WELL...

YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING EXCUSES FOR PEOPLE LIKE THAT, KANIE.

AND EVEN IF THE ONE RESPONSIBLE WAS PUNISHED, IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE THE MANAGER SUDDENLY GET BETTER

I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL SACHI, BUT LET'S TRY TO BE RATIONAL, OKAY?

AND THE MANAGER TOO WAS PARTIALLY AT FAULT FOR ABSENT-MINDEDLY WALKING OUT OF THE STORE WITHOUT PAYING

SAME HERE.

YOU SHOULD TAKE A LITTLE REST TOO, SACHI.

NO, THE TWO OF US NEED TO HEAD HOME FOR TODAY.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO PAY HIM ANOTHER VISIT?

YEAH...

SORRY.

SIGH,

HE'S STILL SLEEPING...

A DISLO-CATED SHOULDER AND A SPINAL CORD INJURY

THE DOCTOR SAID HIS VOICE WOULD RETURN IN DUE TIME, HOWEVER...

WITH THE LONG-TERM REHAB HE'LL NEED TO UNDERGO,

I'M THINKING OF RENTING A PLACE CLOSE TO THE HOSPITAL TO LIVE...

ONODERA,

I THINK YOU BETTER TRY TO FIND WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE SINCE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY YOU ANYMORE

UMM,

COULD I MAYBE ASK THAT YOU DELAY YOUR DECISION FOR A LITTLE LONGER...?

IN THE MEANWHILE, YOU CAN LEASE THE OFFICE TO ME. I CAN USE IT AS MY WORKSPACE...

AS FOR THIS REAL ESTATE OFFICE, I'LL HAVE TO EITHER SELL, RENT OUT, OR TURN IT INTO A PARKING LOT..

FINE, AS YOU WISH.

BUT YOU SHOULD BE MORE REALISTIC.

AFTER ALL,

THIS ISN'T A SITUATION WHERE I CAN WAIT THAT LONG.

MANAGER?

MN...

NEVER, EVER FORGIVE,

I'LL...

THOSE IDIOTIC SECURITY GUARDS NOR THAT SHOP EMPLOYEE!

I'LL FIND HER FOR SURE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I EVER DO!

AND *ESPECIALLY* THAT OLD HAG WHO JUST TOOK OFF

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT?

WHAT IS IT?

DON'T BE AFRAID YOURSELF. I'LL COME CLOSER

SO

A

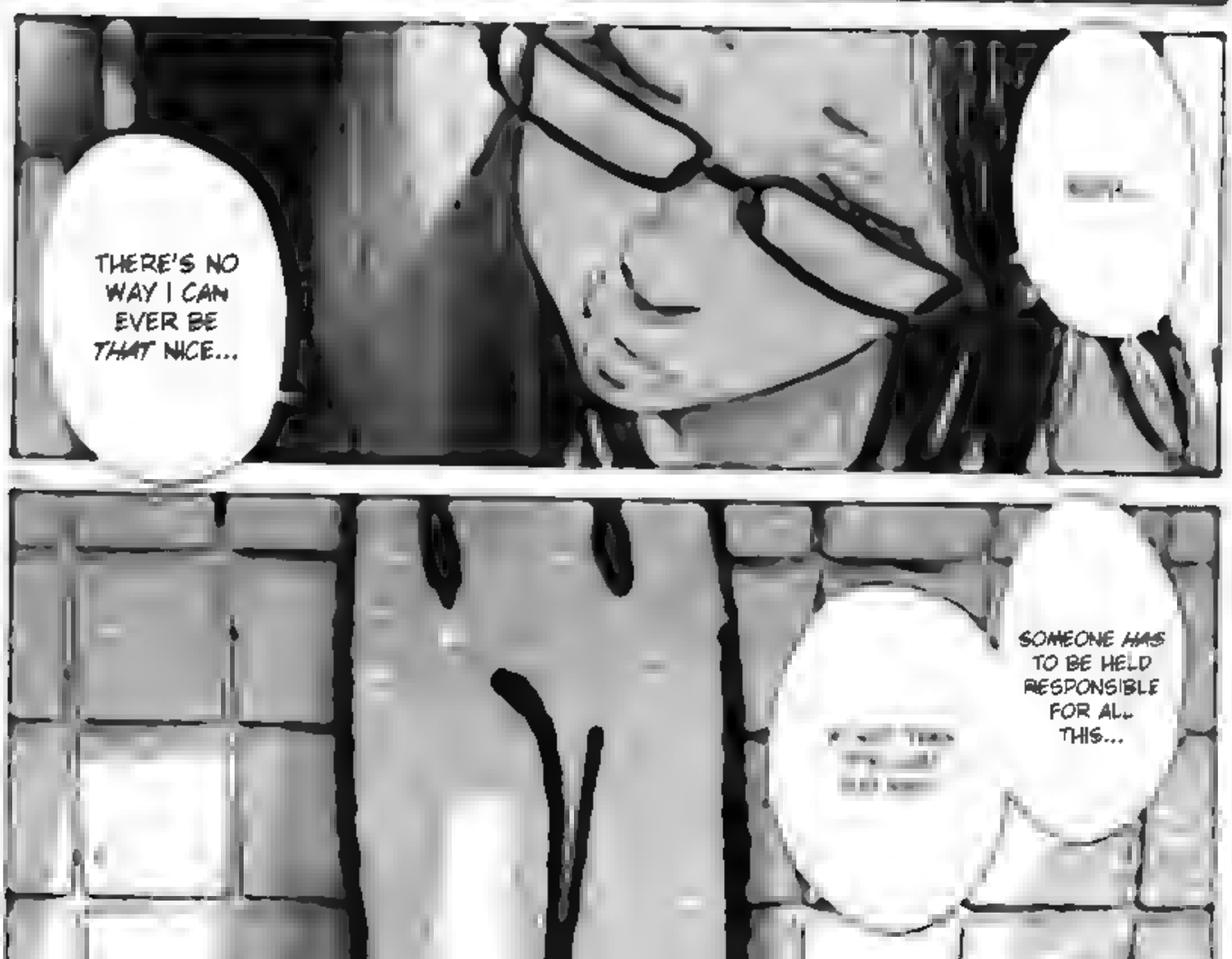
FALL

日本橋
アミューズ

NICE...

WITH...

EVERY-


THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVER BE *THAT* NICE...
SOMEONE *HAS* TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS...

AND A LOW-LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE A LOW-LIFE.

AREN'T THERE PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD THAT ARE BETTER OFF DEAD?

AN IDIOT IS AN IDIOT,

MAYBE MY ENTIRE LINE OF THINKING IS MISTAKEN...

MAYBE I'M JUST WRONG...

JUST WHAT AM I

DON'T
"DUDE"
ME

IT'S BECAUSE YOU DO STUFF LIKE THAT DURING THESE MOMENTS,
THAT I THINK YOU'RE SO THOUGHTLESS.

DO YOU HAVE *ANY IDEA* HOW DEPRESSED THOSE THOUGHT-LESS WORDS MADE ME,

BECAUSE IT ONLY MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW MEDIOCRE I REALLY WAS?

DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN WE WERE WALKING HOME AFTER MEETING WITH THE EDITOR?

YOU TOLD ME EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALRIGHT SINCE I'M A GENIUS

YOU MAY BE ONLY ACTING OUT OF CONCERN...

BUT JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU HURT UNTIL NOW BY DOING THAT?

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT TOO...

YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

"...I'M SORRY."

GOD!

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS,

THAT I'M JUST SPEWING UNREASONABLE BULLSHIT BECAUSE I'M UPSET!?

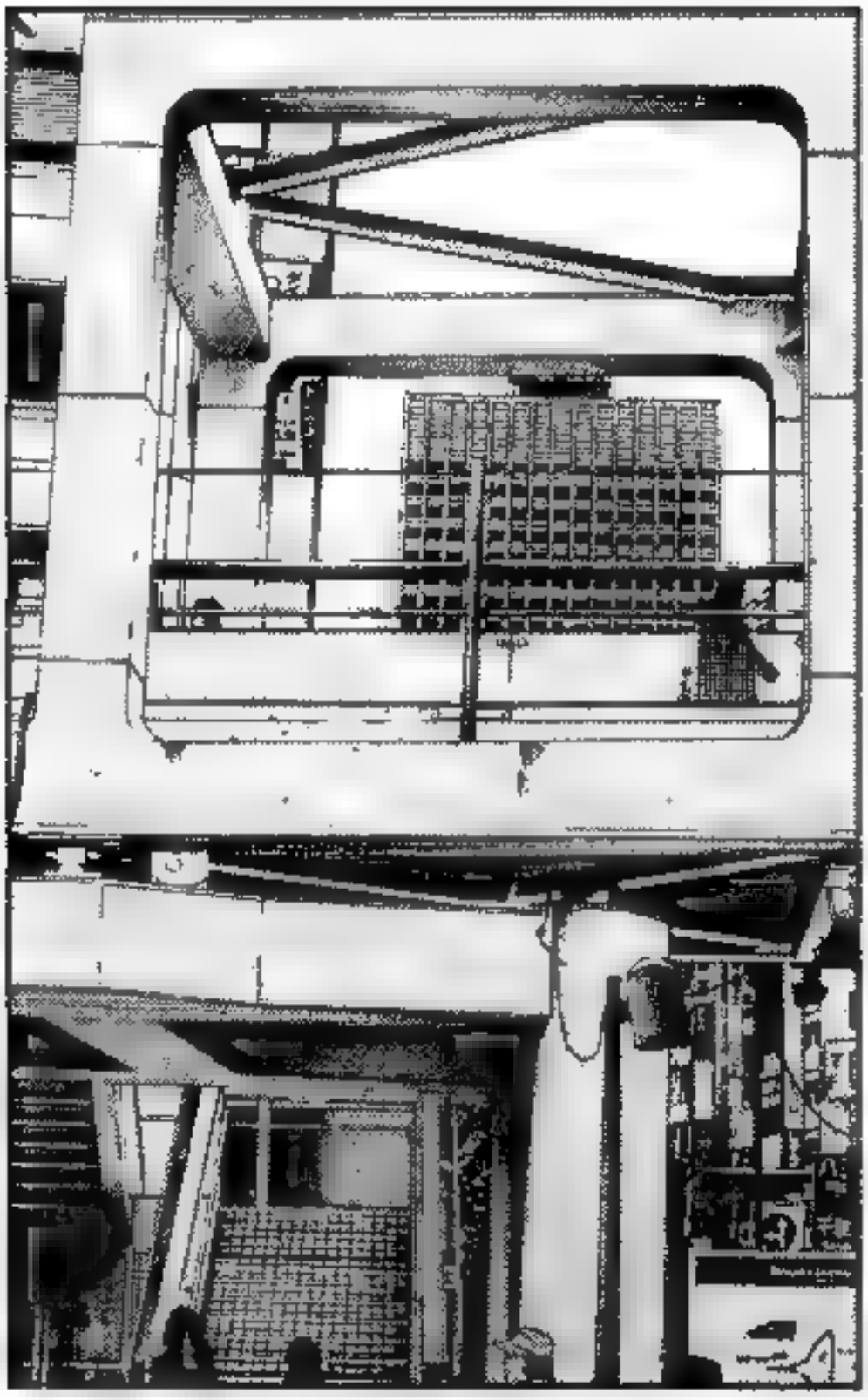
WHY THE HELL DO YOU APOLOGIZE SO EASILY ALL THE GODDAMN TIME!?

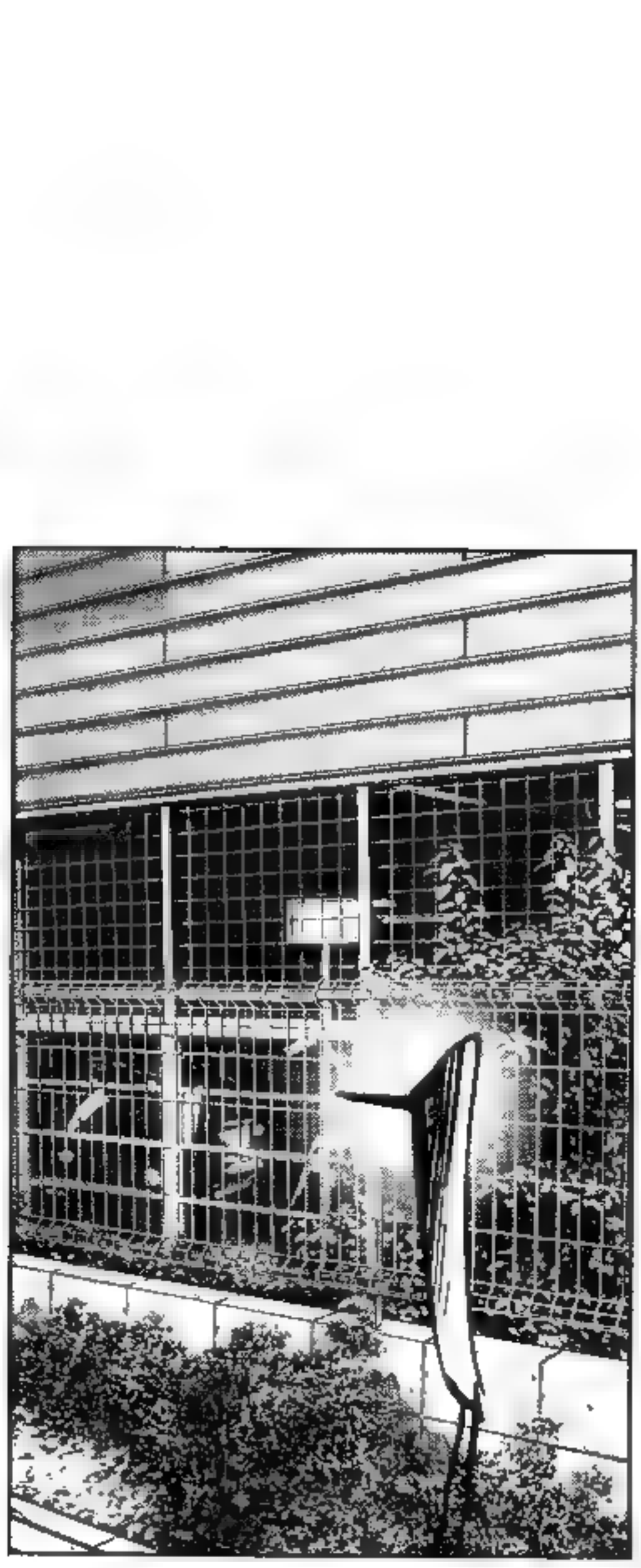
I CAN'T EVEN SAVE ONE PERSON, AND YET I GET ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT MY MANGA...

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...

SORRY...

I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING...





Chapter 98

HELLO?

ONODERA?

SINCE IT'S YOU AND ALL, I DON'T PLAN ON CHARGING A RENEWAL FEE,

BUT I WANT TO KNOW IF I SHOULD JUST GO AHEAD AND RENEW YOUR CONTRACT OR NOT.

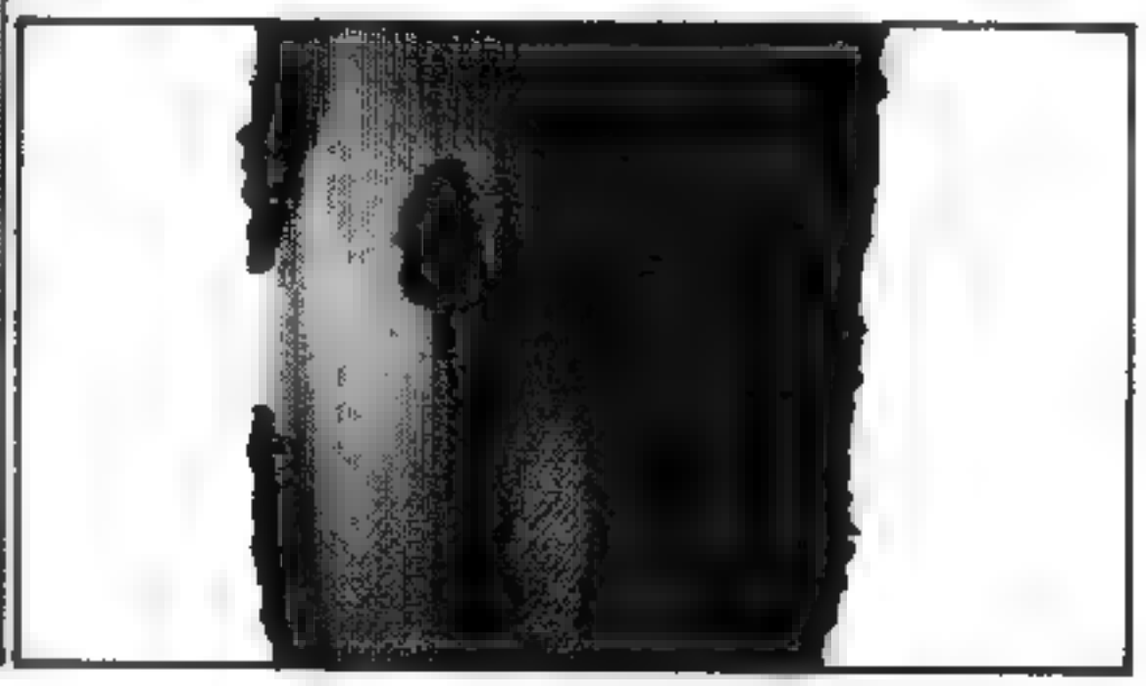
I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN BECALISE OF THE RECENT INCIDENT,

BUT I'M NOW CALLING TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR CONTRACT ENDED LAST MONTH.

...PUNPUN HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN UNTIL THEN.

2 YEARS AGO, HE MADE A PROMISE WITH HIMSELF THAT IF HIS LIFE DIDN'T CHANGE BY THE TIME HE WOULD RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THE ROOM...

....THEN HE WOULD KILL HIMSELF.
YES, THAT'S WHAT HE HAD DECIDED.



AND SO PUNPUN THOUGHT TO HIMSELF...

DID ANYTHING REALLY CHANGE THESE PAST TWO YEARS...?

3
STOP IT. YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE HIM TO COME.
BESIDES, ONODERA'S NOT VERY GOOD AT TALKING WITH OTHERS.
ONODERA,
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME TO THE MIXER NEXT WEEK?
SODA

ALL I DID WAS TAKE A LONG DETOUR.

BUT IN THE END, I'M BACK TO WHERE I STARTED...

I'M BACK TO WHERE I STARTED...!

NO, NOT QUITE.
I BRIEFLY TRIED TO FOLLOW THE LIGHT IN THE TUNNEL...

BUT THE TUNNEL GRADUALLY BECAME DARKER AND DARKER...

I'M COMING!
HANG ON!

NGHH!

I WANNA HAVE SEX...

UGH

PYABO FUGYA!

MIMURAA!

WAIT, AREN'T YOU SEKI?

IT'S ME! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION!

I CAME BACK HERE FROM UNIVERSITY SINCE IT WAS THE HOLIDAYS. THE TWO OF US GO TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY.

WHAAAT, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? WE USED TO BE CLASS-MATES BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

HELLO...?

UMM, YEAH...

DO YOU KNOW HOW THE OTHER BOYS ARE DOING THESE DAYS?

OH.

WAS HE...

OH...

LIKE SHIMIZU FOR EXAMPLE. YOU TWO USED TO BE REAL CLOSE, RIGHT?

KOMATSU WAS REAL LONELY BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T THERE AT THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY, YOU KNOW?

SHIMI-WHO NOW?

HMM?

THAT NIGHT, PUNPUN HAD A VERY ODD DREAM.

HI-HO!

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
I DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME
ANYMORE...

SO I'LL
JUST GET
RIGHT TO IT
AND ASK!

ARE YOU ONE
OF THOSE
THAT CAN!?

"NO, I'M NOT... I'M NEVER ONE OF THOSE WHO CAN...!"

IF YOU WERE TO JUST JOIN HANDS WITH US, YOU COULD WELCOME FORTH A BRAND NEW WORLD, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S A SHAME.
EVEN THOUGH OUR OSCILLA-TIONS SHARE A CLOSE BOND OF 7 DEGREES...

"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE..."

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, IT LURKS AMIDST THE NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF YOUR ROOM...

IT IS DRAGGING YOU DOWN INTO A SPIRAL OF INSANITY...!

SORRY, BUT I HAVE WORK FROM NOON TOMORROW... SO UMM... IF YOU DON'T MIND, WOULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE?

I LOVE THAT PART OF YOU MORE THAN I CAN BEAR AS WELL!

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR YOU!

SPLENDID!

Welcome back, Puma
"...HELLO AGAIN."

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT COME ANY MOMENT NOW...

COMING 5 MINUTES EARLY, YOU'RE AN IMPATIENT ONE, AREN'T YOU...

BORN AND RAISED IN TOKYO, I PRESUME?

WELL I LOVE THAT PART ABOUT YOU.

MORE THAN I CAN BEAR...

FROM TODAY, YOUR NAME WILL BE,

WEEKLY BIG COMIC SPIRITS...

BEFORE WE PERFORM,

WHY DON'T WE RAISE A TOAST..?

FREEZIE, GIVE A GLASS TO HIM...

I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY...

MAGICAL WARRIORS OF THE 12 MUSICAL SCALES...

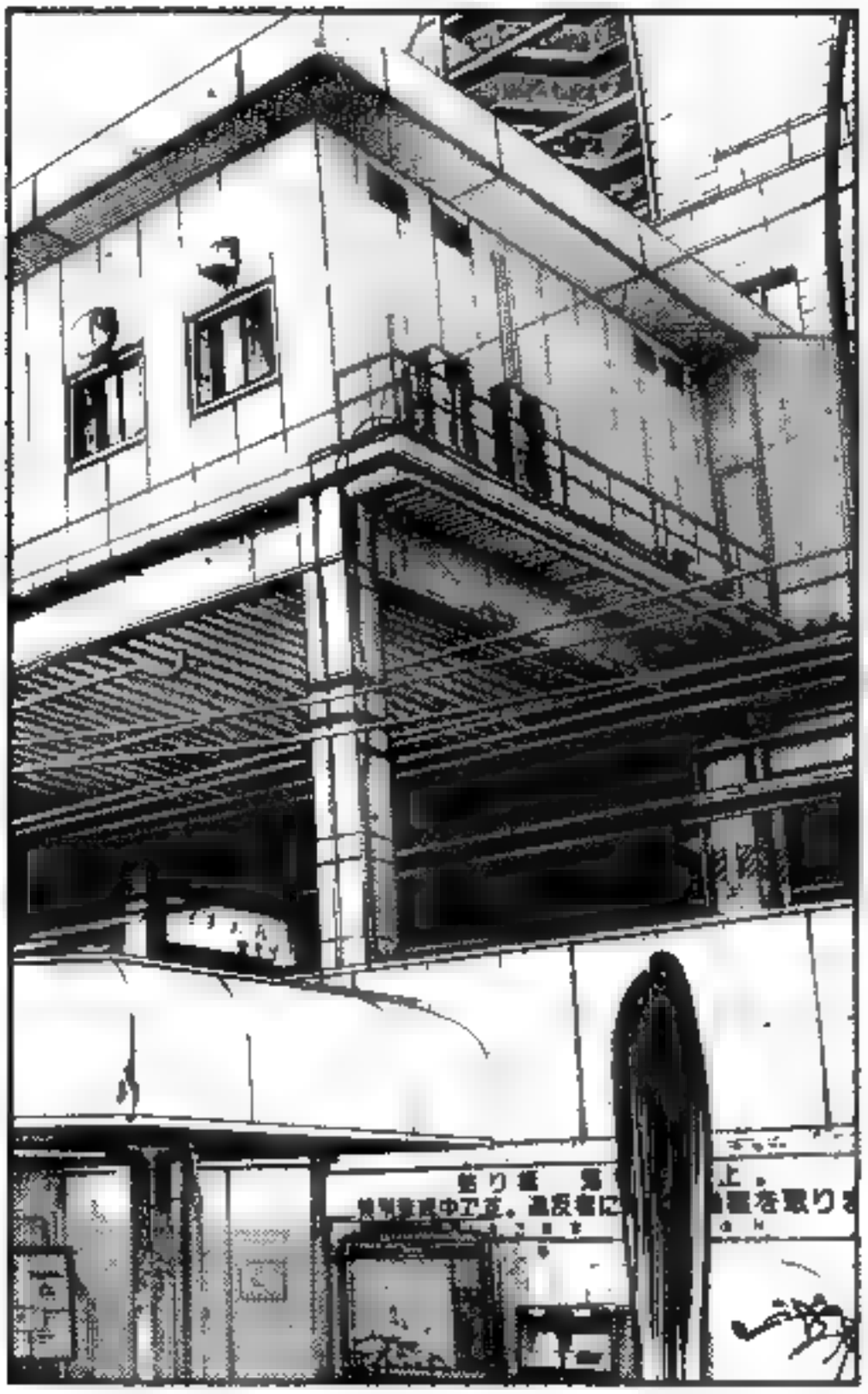
QUICKLY, SHIMZU!

AND GUIDE THE LOVERS INTO A BRAND NEW WORLD...

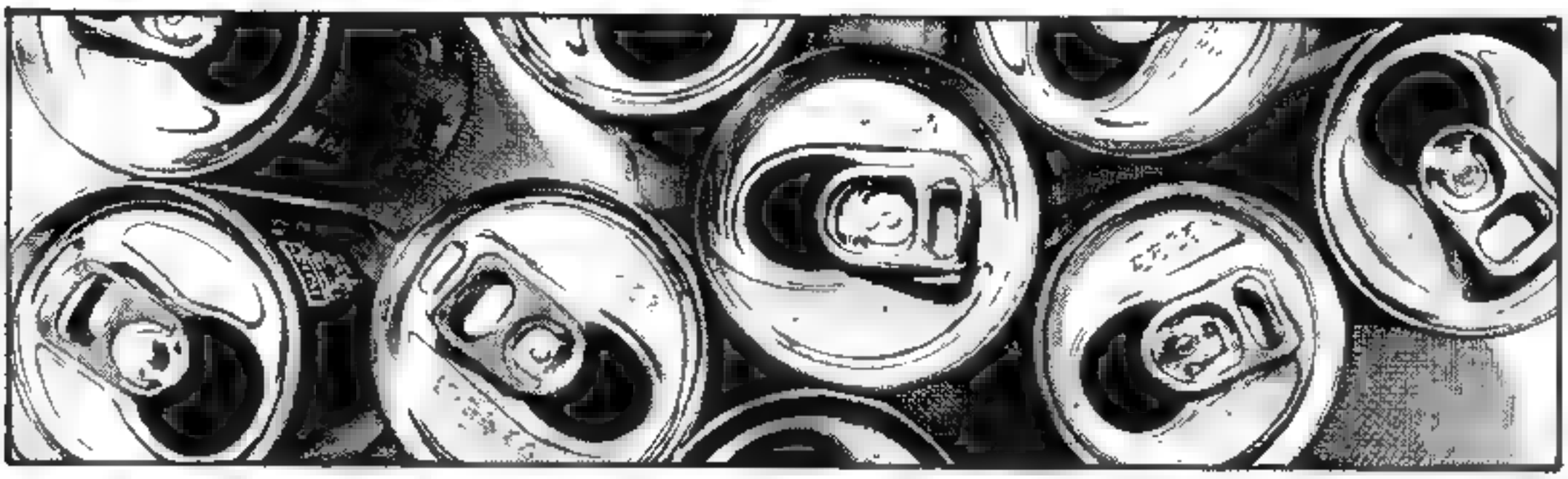
BY OUR COMBINED STRENGTH, LET US EXTINGUISH THE DARK SPOT.

TO THE PEGASUS ENSEMBLE!

WELCOME

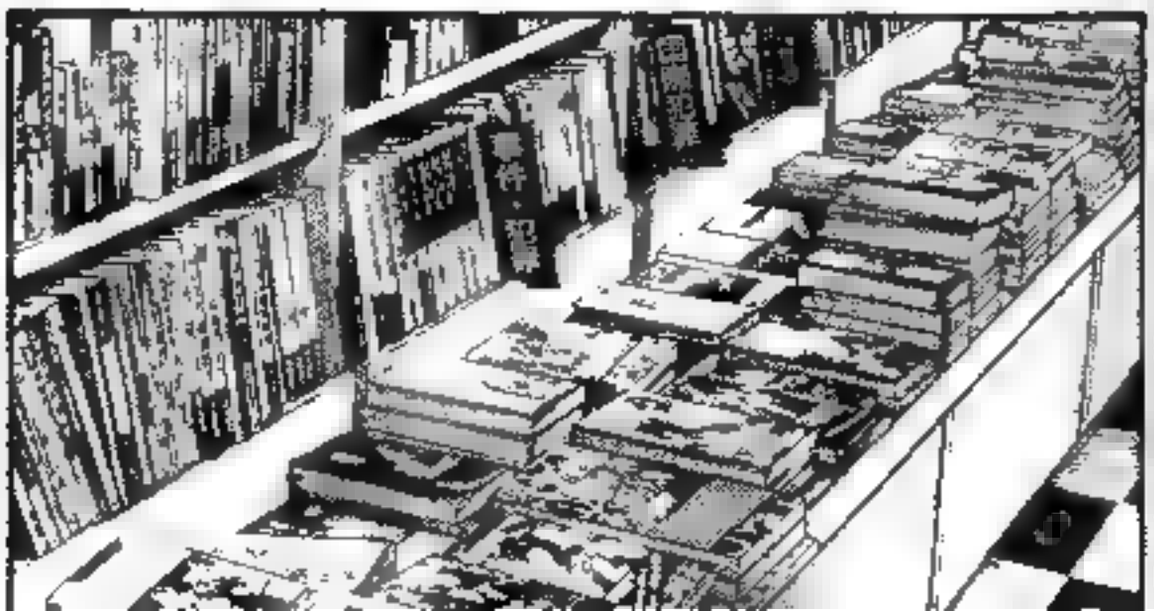


THE VOICE OF THE DAYTIME TALK SHOW HOST DRIFTED INSIDE HIS EAR, WHERE IT TRIGGERED AN ELECTRICAL SYNAPSE THAT SLOWLY AWOKE HIS BRAIN. IT SEEMED THAT HE HAD SLEPT FOR NEARLY 12 HOURS BECAUSE OF MAY'S WARM WEATHER. AFTER FINALLY OPENING HIS HALF-CLOSED EYES, HE SAW AN AMATEUR IMPRESSIONIST ON TV TRYING TO DO AN IMPRESSION OF SOME FAMOUS PERSON HE DID NOT KNOW. A POPULAR COMEDIAN THEN TOLD A JOKE TO GET THE AUDIENCE FIRED UP BUT TO HIM, THE EVENTS ON SCREEN COULDN'T SEEM LESS REAL. LIKE A CONVERSATION BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE OF AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, THE SHOW SEEMED NOTHING MORE THAN THE HAPPENINGS OF A WORLD FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HIM.



THE BILLS INFORMED HIM THAT IF HE DID NOT PAY WITHIN 5 DAYS, HIS ELECTRICITY WOULD BE CUT OFF. HE WONDERED WHY HE TIME AND TIME AGAIN DELAYED DOING THESE SIMPLE THINGS. TO DO ANYTHING WHEN LIVING ALONE SEEMED TO MAKE THINGS SO HECTIC YET TO DO NOTHING WAS TOO BORING.

FEELING THIRSTY, HE LOOKED AROUND THE TABLE FOR SOMETHING TO PARCH HIS THROAT BUT HE COULD ONLY FIND HALF-DRUNK CANS OF COFFEE. AS HE CONSIDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO JUST DRINK HIS OWN URINE AND EXCRETE IT BACK OUT, ONLY TO DRINK IT AGAIN AND SO FORTH, THE SOUND OF HIS MAILBOX BEING OPENED WAS HEARD. IT STARTLED HIM FOR A MOMENT, BUT HE THEN REALIZED IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL BILLS. AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO OTHER REASON WHY ANYONE IN THIS WORLD WOULD NEED TO CONTACT HIM FOR.

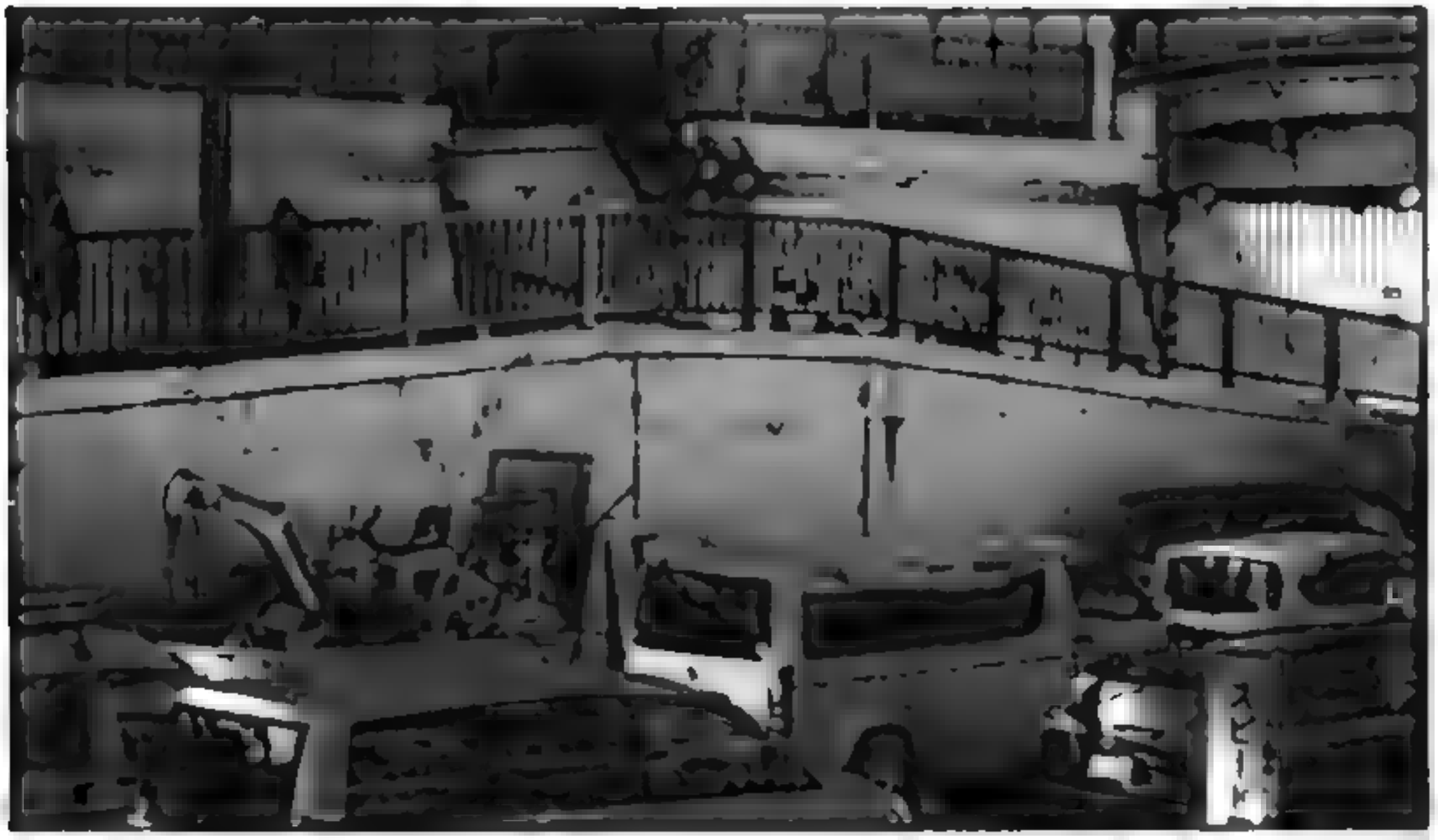


AT THE BOOKSTORE JUST IN FRONT OF HIS WORKPLACE, HE READ A GUIDE ON HOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE. IT SEEMED THAT HANGING YOURSELF FROM A DOOR KNOB WAS A GOOD METHOD. HOLDING THE BOOK IN HAND, HE WALKED UP TO THE REGISTER BUT THERE HE NOTICED A CUTE, ROUND-FACED, GLASSES-WEARING FEMALE CASHIER BEING BERATED BY A MIDDLE-AGED MALE CUSTOMER. FOR SOME REASON, LOOKING AT HER CRYING WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM START CRYING TOO. HE IMAGINED HIMSELF DOING A SWEEPING LEG THROW ON THE MEAN OLD MAN AND REPEATEDLY PUNCHING HIM AFTERWARDS UNTIL HIS BRAINS SPLATTERED OUT BUT OF COURSE, HE HAD NO SUCH COURAGE TO ACTUALLY CARRY IT OUT. UNABLE TO BEAR THE SCENE ANY LONGER, HE LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT BUYING THE BOOK. HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT IF HE HAD THE COURAGE TO KILL HIMSELF, HE SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE AHEAD AND KILLED THAT MAN. BUT HE KNEW THAT WAS JUST HOW HIS PATHETIC, WEAK-WILLED SELF WAS.

WHILE WALKING HOME, HE SPOTTED A WOMAN LYING DOWN UNCONSCIOUS ALONG THE SIDEWALK. HE NERVOUSLY APPROACHED HER, WONDERING IF SHE HAD DIED, BUT SHE TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A PASSED-OUT DRUNK. A BROWN-HAIRED WOMAN WEARING HIGH-HEEL BOOTS, FRAYED JEANS, AND A WHITE T-SHIRT THAT DID LITTLE TO COVER HER BARE STOMACH WHICH SEEMED TO READ, "PLEASE RAPE ME." CLICKING HIS TONGUE IN DISGUST, HE QUICKLY LEFT THE SCENE AND HEADED HOME.

AT THE PARK WHILE EATING BREAD, HE IMAGINED HIMSELF GOING OUT WITH THAT FEMALE CASHIER AND HAVING SEX. HOWEVER, UNLESS 10 MIRACLES WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM, IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT SUCH FANTASIES WOULD EVER COME TRUE.

AFTER MUCH THOUGHT, HE DECIDED TO ASK HIS CO-WORKER IF HE COULD JOIN THE MOVIE AFTER ALL, BUT HIS CO-WORKER REPLIED THAT THE NUMBER OF PARTY MEMBERS HAD ALREADY BEEN SET AND UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE CHANGED. SEEING THE TROUBLED LOOK ON HIS CO-WORKER'S FACE, HE QUICKLY STAMMERED, "IT'S FINE THEN, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME." ALL THE WHILE WONDERING JUST WHAT EXACTLY IN HIS LIFE WAS "FINE." FEELING A LITTLE EMBARRASSED, HE NERVOUSLY LAUGHED TO HIMSELF BEFORE ACCIDENTALLY LETTING OUT A BIG SHORT. SOON AFTERWARDS, HE WAS HIT BY A STOMACH-ACHE SO HE RETREATED TO THE WASHROOM WHERE HE LET OUT A GREAT BIG SHIT LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WITH BOWEL PROBLEMS. HEARING THE MUFFLED LAUGHTER OF HIS CO-WORKERS COMING ACROSS THE POOL, HE THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR HIM TO QUIT THIS PART-TIME JOB TOO.



SOME FEW HOURS AFTER RETURNING HOME, HE BECAME SUDDENLY WORRIED FOR THAT WOMAN EARLIER SO HE WENT BACK OUT TO LOOK FOR HER. HOWEVER, WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE PLACE, SHE WAS NO LONGER THERE.

FRANKLY, HE WAS TIRED OF HIMSELF.

THAT WAS HOW PUNPUN'S DAY WENT.

HIS MESSILY SCATTERED ITEMS SEEMED TO HIM LIKE THE DREGS LEFT BEHIND AFTER HIS WORTHLESS LIFE WAS FILTERED THROUGH A METAPHORICAL TEA STRAINER.

HE WANTED TO JUST THROW IT ALL AWAY AND SO HE DID JUST THAT.

...MM

HI THERE. I'M FUJIKAWA FROM NEXT DOOR.

THOSE BAGS SEEM QUITE HEAVY...

CAN I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?

DO YOU NEED A HAND?

AH!
YES,
YES!
AHN~
AHN~
AH.
AHN~
TAKASHI!
TAKASHI!
MN!
MAYBE...
YURIA!
THIS UNIVERSE REVOLVES AROUND TAKASHI.
6
AHN~
AH...
JUST MAYBE, THE CENTER OF THIS UNIVERSE IS KIND, GENTLE FUJIKAWA TAKASHI, WHO GOES TO A GOOD UNIVERSITY, PLAYS SOCCER ON WEEKENDS, IS WELL-LIKED BY FRIENDS, AND HAS A CARING GIRLFRIEND BUT STILL HAS RELATIONS WITH RANDOM GIRLS HE MEETS WHEN HE GOES OUT DRINKING.
AHN~
AHN~

THINKING THUS, PUNPUN ACHIEVED THE STRANGEST ERECTION.

YES,

YES, TAKASHI!

RIGHT THERE,

MN...

AND THAT VERY SAME TAKASHI IS RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL, SINGLE-MINDEDLY THRUSTING HIS JOHNNY IN AND OUT!

I'M-

I'M COMING!

TAKASHI! TAKASHI! TAKASHI!

TAKASHI!

TAKASHI!

I LOVE
TAKASHI!

AH-

I WANT TAKASHI TO LICK EVERY INCH OF MY BODY...

I WANT HIM TO GENTLY CARESS ME...

AND THEN I WANT HIM TO SLAP MY ASS!

YOU CAN COME INSIDE ME...

AS LONG AS YOU HOLD ME IN YOUR WARM EMBRACE AFTERWARDS...

THAT NIGHT, ONODERA PUNPUN DIED.

公認
LMMM...
SORRY, NOT SURE HOW COMFORTABLE I AM WITH THAT...
SORRY,
AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT.
I'M IN A RUSH RIGHT NOW...

LET ME CLEAN THIS UP RIGHT NOW.

OH SORRY, WOULD YOU LIKE A SEAT?

WHO, ME?

YES, I AM FREE AT THE MOMENT...

OH, SO TODAY IS YOUR FIRST DAY?

UNRELENTING COURAGE.

I'M JUST HERE BECAUSE MY PARENTS TOLD ME TO GO GET A LICENSE...

YES, I KNOW. WAITING FOR THE APPOINTMENT CAN BE SO BORING. IN MY CASE, ESPECIALLY, BECAUSE I JUST MOVED HERE TO TOKYO FOR UNIVERSITY SO I DON'T HAVE VERY MANY FRIENDS YET

YOU'RE APPLYING FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE SO YOU CAN DRIVE YOUR SOCCER TEAM?

WOW, THAT'S SO CONSIDERATE OF YOU.

AH THAT'S RIGHT.

I HAVE TO BOOK MY NEXT TRAINING TIME...

kitasaoai Driving School

BY THE WAY,

I STILL DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME YET...

"JUST CALL ME, TAKASHI, THAT'S WHAT ALL MY FRIENDS CALL ME!"

"SHOW ME YOUR VAGINA."

WELL, WAIT UP BECAUSE I'LL BE DONE SOON.

HAHA.

SEE.

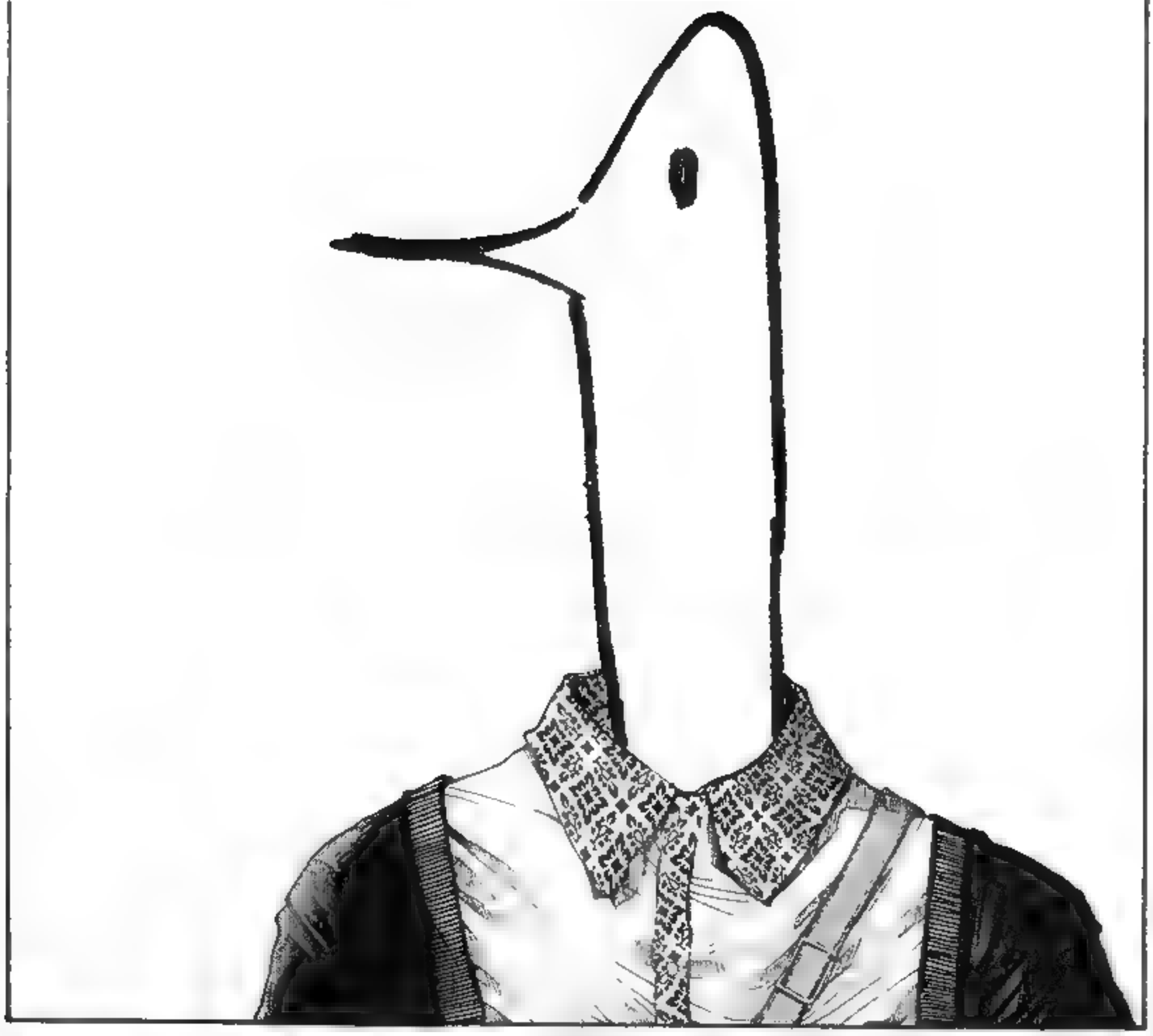
AS LONG AS I COMPLETELY DISREGARD MY FORMER SELF, THINGS WILL GO *JUUUST* FINE.

IN FACT...

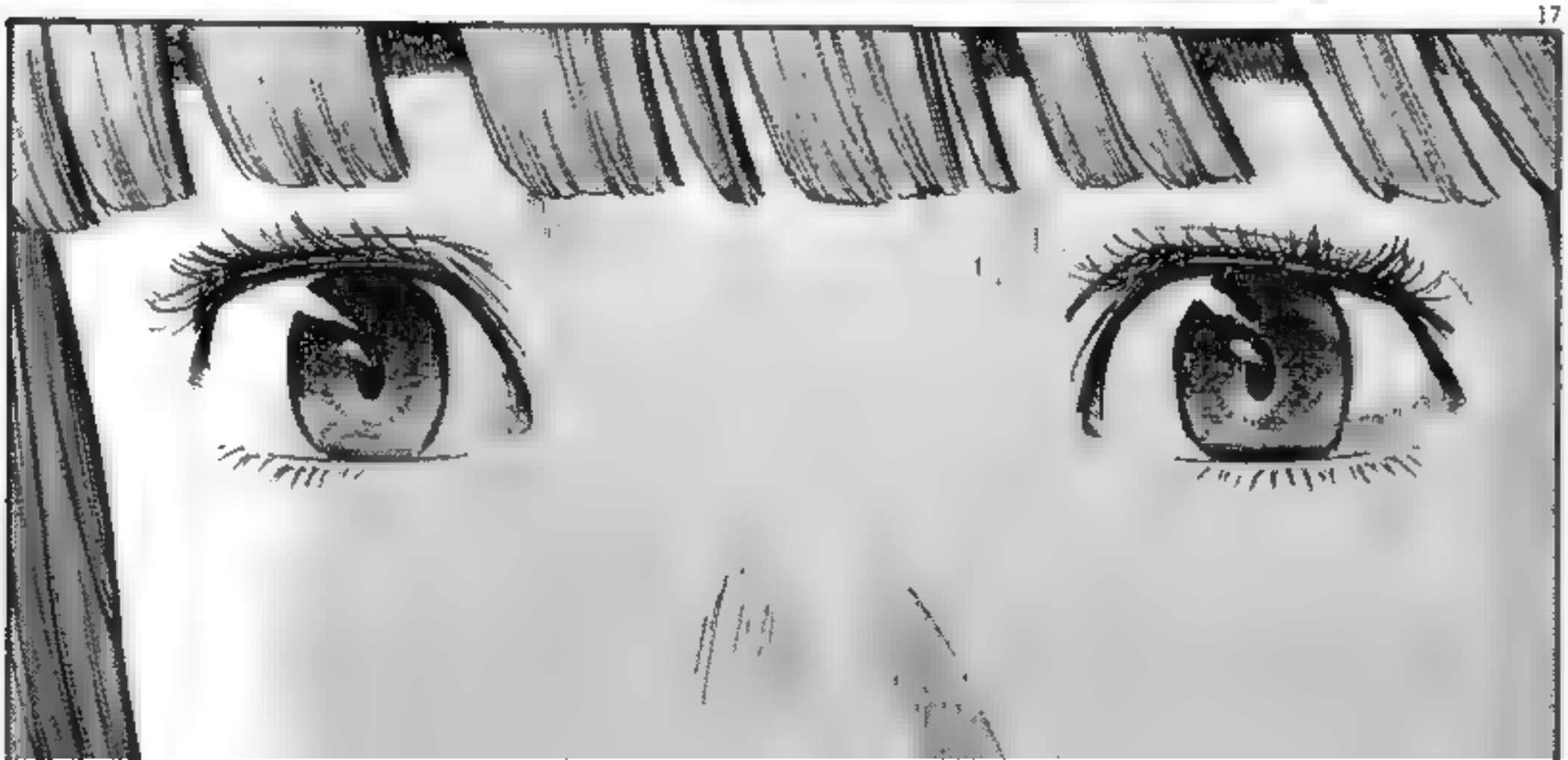
YES, I'M SURE I CARE

THIS IS WAY TOO FUCKING EASY

N



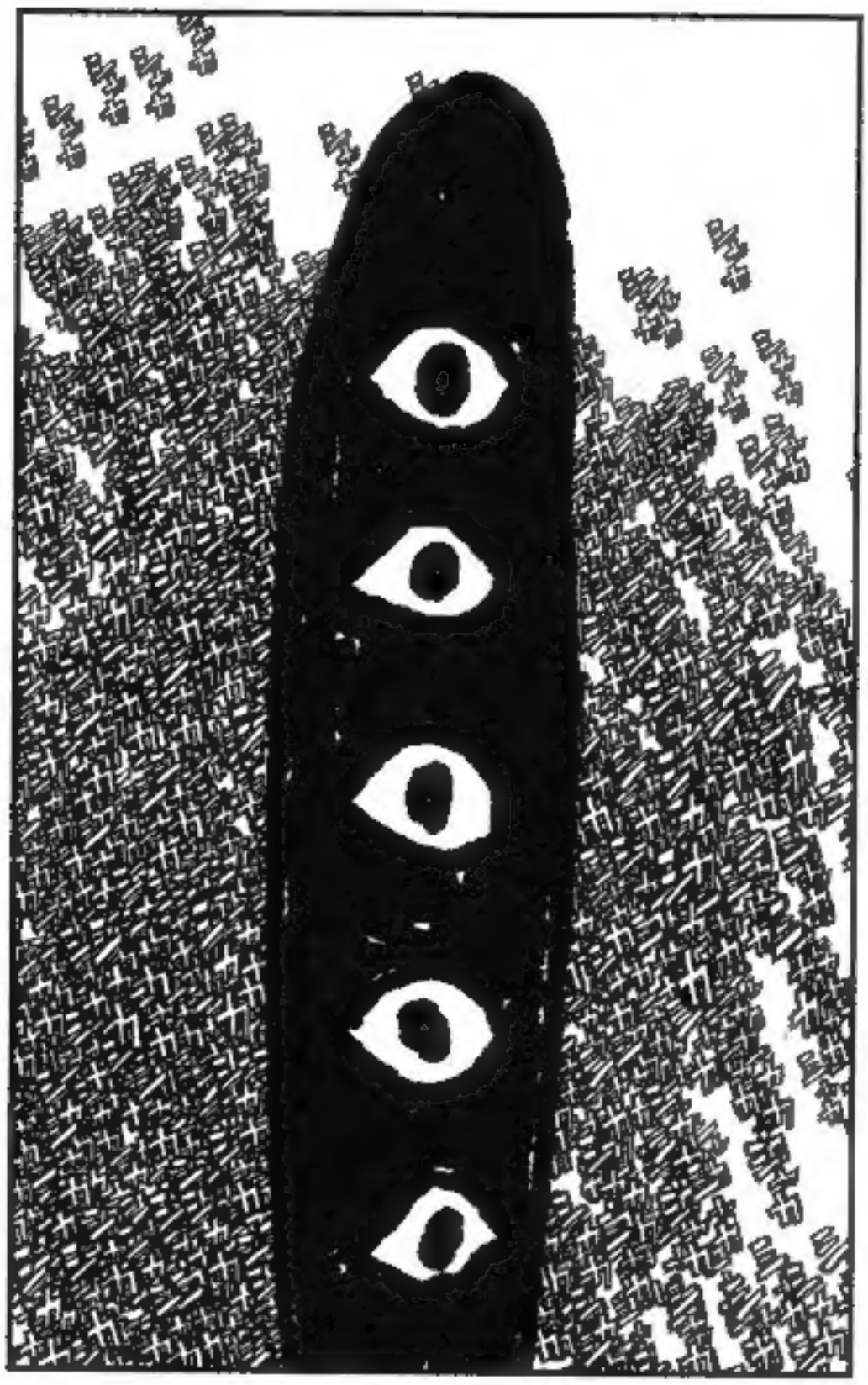
AT THAT INSTANT, ONODERA PUNPUN/FUJIKAWA TAKASHI (AGE 20) WANTED TO LOUDLY HOLLER AT ALL THE OTHER WORTHLESS SACKS OF CRAP OUT THERE IN THE WORLD:



PUNPUN...?

能 予 約

"THE WORLD IS MINE."



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散り散りになっていた
歯車が今噛み合い、
ついに止まっていた時間が
動き出す……!!

次巻、ポテトサラダ編に続く!!

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おやすみプンプン⑨

ヤングサンデーコミックス

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HEARING THE MUFFLED LAUGHTER OF HIS CO-WORKERS COMING ACROSS THE DOOR, HE THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR HIM TO QUIT THIS PART-TIME JOB TOO. WHILE WALKING HOME, HE SPOTTED A WOMAN LYING DOWN UNCONSCIOUS ALONG THE SIDEWALK. HE NERVOUSLY APPROACHED HER, WONDERING IF SHE HAD DIED, BUT SHE TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A PASSED-OUT DRUNK. A BROWN-HAIRED WOMAN WEARING HIGH-HEEL BOOTS, FRAYED JEANS, AND A WHITE T-SHIRT THAT DID LITTLE TO COVER HER BARE STOMACH WHICH SEEMED TO READ, "PLEASE RAPE ME." CLICKING HIS TONGUE IN DISGUST, HE QUICKLY LEFT THE SCENE AND HEADED HOME. SOME FEW HOURS AFTER RETURNING HOME, HE BECAME SUDDENLY WORRIED FOR THAT WOMAN EARLIER SO HE WENT BACK OUT TO LOOK FOR HER. HOWEVER, WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE PLACE, SHE WAS NO LONGER THERE. THE VOICE OF THE DAYTIME TALK SHOW HOST DRIFTED INSIDE HIS EAR, WHERE IT TRIGGERED AN ELECTRICAL SYNAPSE THAT SLOWLY AWOKE HIS BRAIN. IT SEEMED THAT HE HAD SLEPT FOR NEARLY 12 HOURS BECAUSE OF MAY'S WARM WEATHER. AFTER FINALLY OPENING HIS HALF-CLOSED EYES, HE SAW AN AMATEUR IMPRESSIONIST ON TV TRYING TO DO AN IMPRESSION OF SOME FAMOUS PERSON HE DID NOT KNOW. A POPULAR COMEDIAN THEN TOLD A JOKE TO GET THE AUDIENCE FIRED UP BUT TO HIM, THE EVENTS ON SCREEN COULDN'T SEEM LESS REAL. LIKE A CONVERSATION BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE OF AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, THE SHOW SEEMED NOTHING MORE THAN THE HAP-PENINGS OF A WORLD FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HIM. FEELING THIRSTY, HE LOOKED AROUND THE TABLE FOR SOMETHING TO PARCH HIS THROAT BUT HE COULD ONLY FIND HALF-DRUNK CANS OF COFFEE. AS HE CONSIDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO JUST DRINK HIS OWN URINE AND EXCRETE IT BACK OUT, ONLY TO DRINK IT AGAIN AND SO FORTH, THE SOUND OF HIS MAILBOX BEING OPENED WAS HEARD. IT STARTLED HIM FOR A MOMENT, BUT HE THEN REALIZED IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL BILLS. AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO OTHER REASON WHY ANYONE IN THIS WORLD WOULD NEED TO CONTACT HIM FOR. THE BILLS INFORMED HIM THAT IF HE DID NOT PAY WITHIN 5 DAYS, HIS ELECTRICITY WOULD BE CUT OFF. HE WONDERED WHY HE TIME AND TIME AGAIN DELAYED DOING THESE SIMPLE THINGS. TO DO ANYTHING WHEN LIVING ALONE SEEMED TO MAKE THINGS SO HECTIC YET TO DO NOTHING WAS TOO BORING. AT THE BOOK-STORE JUST IN FRONT OF HIS WORKPLACE, HE READ A GUIDE ON HOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE. IT SEEMED THAT HANGING YOURSELF FROM A DOOR KNOB WAS A GOOD METHOD. HOLDING THE BOOK IN HAND, HE WALKED UP TO THE REGISTER BUT THERE HE NOTICED A CUTE, ROUND-FACED, GLASSES-WEARING FEMALE CASHIER BEING BERATED BY A MIDDLE-AGED MALE CUSTOMER. FOR SOME REASON, LOOKING AT HER CRYING WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM START CRYING TOO. HE IMAGINED HIMSELF DOING A SWEEPING LEG THROW ON THE MEAN OLD MAN AND REPEATEDLY PUNCHING HIM AFTERWARDS UNTIL HIS BRAINS SPLATTERED OUT BUT OF COURSE, HE HAD NO SUCH COURAGE TO ACTUALLY CARRY IT OUT. UNABLE TO BEAR THE SCENE ANY LONGER, HE LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT BUYING THE BOOK. HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT IF HE HAD THE COURAGE TO KILL HIMSELF, HE SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE AHEAD AND KILLED THAT MAN. BUT HE KNEW THAT WAS JUST HOW HIS PATHETIC, WEAK-WILLED SELF WAS.

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YOUNG
SUNDAY
COMICS

Oyasumi Punpun

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Asano Inio

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